Nene: Senate can't coerce banks on Pidal accounts

Story on PAGE A2

Oakwood probers debate original sin

By Dona Pazzibugan

FROM Oakwood to the Garden of Eden.

The talk at the Feliciano Commission took an unexpected turn yesterday, as the commissioners investigating the July 27

OAKWOOD/ A18

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Friday, August 29, 2003 ★★ 84 pages / 11 sections / vol. 18 / no. 262 P15

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MACAPAGAL: We are prepared to throw the book at those who cross the line.

Palace: No 'snap,' no stepping down

GMA warns those who seek to bring her down

AQUINO-ORETA: Marcos did it, why can't she?

LUMBAO: People have "reached peak of anger."

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday told members of the political opposition to watch it and said their attempt to bring her down would be "futile."

"I must issue a fair and firm warning to all the detractors of the Constitution not to overstep the bounds of law," she said in a statement.

"We are prepared to throw the book [at] those who cross the line between legitimacy and lawlessness."

Ignacio Bunye, spokesperson for the President, also dismissed the opposition's demand for her to resign or call for a "snap" election.

"We don't think that's called for," he said at a briefing. "The President enjoys wide support from the people, as borne out by the most recent survey."

Asked if Ms Macapagal would be able to finish her term, Bunye said: "Well, of course."

The President said the loyalty of all the uniformed services was "total and unsullied, and they will not hesitate to do their duty."

As though to prove it, Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, Armed Forces vice chief of staff, said government troops would "make mincemeat" of any group that would attempt to grab power.

Garcia also said the alleged plan by the pro-Estrada People's Movement Against Poverty to occupy the Edsa Shrine and adjoining buildings in a massive protest rally this week was part of a fresh plot to destabilize the government.

The military, which believes that it preempted the plan by fielding troops at the shrine starting Tuesday night, continued to maintain a 50-member crowd control unit in the area and remained on blue alert.

PALACE/ A19

Opposition can't wait for 2004, wants GMA to call for 'snap' polls

By Christine O. Avendaño and Armand N. Nocum

AFTER calling on President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down, the opposition now wants her to do a Ferdinand Marcos and call for a "snap" election.

"Marcos went through that. Why can't she?" Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta told reporters yesterday, adding that Ms Macapagal had become a "stumbling block" to progress.

"We have to take drastic steps to put [the country back on] track," said Oreta, one of the leaders of the "united opposition" who called for Ms Macapagal's resignation in a press conference Wednesday. "We all belong to this country and we would want [it] to move forward."

She said her call for a snap election was her own "view," but that she would propose it to her fellow opposition members.

But the same call for Ms Macapagal to resign or call for a snap

OPPOSITION/ A19

GDP growth slightly off target; officials cite political threats

By Doris C. Dumlao
Business

THE ECONOMY grew by a mere 3.2 percent in the second quarter, narrowly missing the government target amid warnings that political squabbles ahead of next year's presidential election were threatening growth.

Even so, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri yesterday forecast higher growth in the third and fourth quarters. Neri and other analysts, however, acknowledged that the government's most optimistic scenario for full-year economic growth now appeared farfetched.

In a news conference, Neri said the country's gross domestic product (GDP)—the total amount of goods and services produced by the economy—rose by only 3.2 percent from April to June compared to the same period last year.

GDP quarterly growth was up just 0.1 percent from the January-March period when the economy slowed down

GDP/ A20

Gov't files raps against Loi, Jude

LOI EJERCITO

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE GOVERNMENT has formally implicated the family of ousted President Estrada in the July 27 failed coup by filing a complaint in the justice department against opposition Sen. Luisa Ejercito, Estrada's wife, and their son, Jude.

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño yesterday said the complaint was filed on Aug. 26 by the national police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group headed by police Director Eduardo Matillano.

Zuño said the justice department would evaluate the complaint which could become the basis for the filing of criminal charges against the two.

He refused to give any more details about the complaint beyond saying that it concerned two vehicles owned by the Estrada family firm, Jelp Realty.

"It does not mean that we will automatically have a preliminary investigation for alleged coup d'etat or rebellion charges

GOV'T/ A18

SENATE REBUKE

Golez links Morales to Edsa IV plot

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE ACCUSATION of National Security Adviser Roilo Golez that former Agrarian Reform Secretary Horacio "Boy" Morales Jr. was behind the plot of followers of deposed President Joseph Estrada to occupy the Edsa Shrine and adjoining buildings like the Asian Development Bank as part of Edsa IV yesterday drew a rebuke from senators.

At the last hearing of the Senate committee of the whole on the July 27 mutiny, Senate President Franklin Drilon chided Golez, saying he should not name names in public on information based solely on an intelligence report.

Drilon said he was not questioning the motive of Golez in accusing Morales, president of the Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino, of being behind the destabilization plot.

"But to come before the Senate and say we have an intelligence report that Mr. Morales is involved without any concrete evidence ... will besmirch (his) reputation," the Senate President said.

"That is why there is so much political bickering because of your propensity to mention names in public," Drilon said.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel dared Golez to come up with evidence to back up his claim. "What is your evidence?"

Realizing the impact of his dis-

GOLEZ/ A19

Mahusay to attend hearings

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

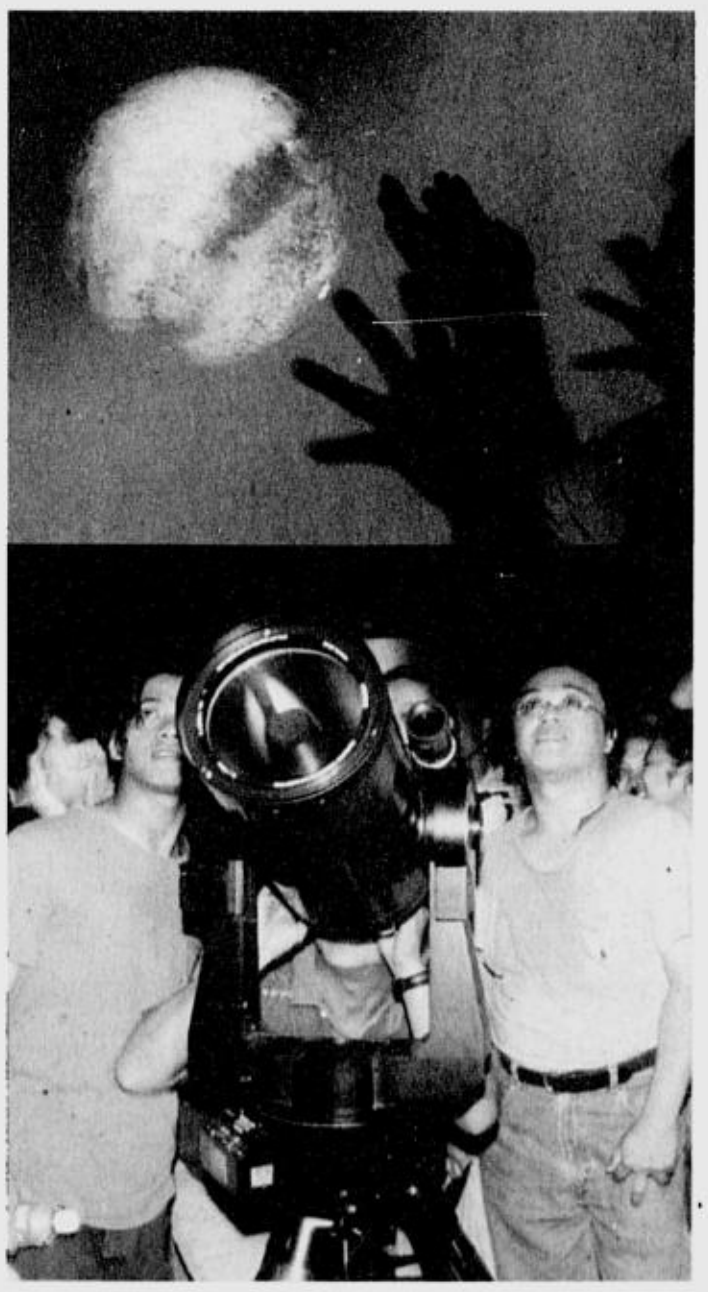
EUGENIO "Udong" Mahusay Jr. will attend the Senate hearings on the alleged money laundering activities of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo to "shed light on everything."

This was disclosed yesterday by his older brother Ferdinand after the Mahusays attended Mass together for the first time in two months.

Ferdinand said Eugenio would also call a press conference possibly this week to "say what he should say."

Asked if his brother would recant his statement that Arroyo was Jose Pidal, Ferdinand said the family had not talked about Eugenio's allegations against Arroyo.

MAHUSAY/ A21



AN ASTRONOMER at the UP Observatory (top photo) explains to visitors the Martian phenomenon as a satellite image of Mars is flashed on a giant screen. Visitors take turns peering at a telescope at the UP Observatory. ERNIE SARMIENTO

Stargazers marvel at Red Planet

STARGAZERS around the world looked to the sky as Mars moved closer to Earth than at any time for 60,000 years—while its proximity brought warnings of war and an unprecedented run on telescopes.

Cloudy weather in parts of Asia Pacific prevented many from witnessing the spectacle but did not deter the turnout by tens of thousands hoping for a glimpse of the red-orange globe.

At the Pagasa's observatory at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, a P19-million computer technology installed only on Saturday provided a live satellite feed of Mars on a computer screen, while impatient crowds wait for clouds to part and reveal the brightest dot in the moonless sky on Wednesday.

When Mars finally showed up from behind patches of clouds about 8:20 p.m., some of those who gathered at the Pagasa clapped in excitement only to moan "Ohhh" when it disappeared again.

Eighty-one-year-old Aliw de Leon of Sta. Ana, Manila, and her family were among the hundreds who flocked to various observation posts in the country.

"We came here because, as they say about climbing Mt. Ever-

STARGAZERS/ A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/29/03

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Pimentel: Senate powerless over banks

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SENATE has no "coercive power" to compel the Bank of the Philippine Islands, the Union Bank and the International Exchange Bank to produce the bank records of Jose Pidal, alleged to be an alias used by First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel explained that the Senate can only request the banks to submit any bank records containing money allegedly laundered by the First Gentleman.

"We may have (that power) theoretically, but we can't do it under the Bank Secrecy Law," Pimentel said.

The branch managers of the three banks that Lacson said contained the laundered money were asked to attend the hearing to be conducted by the Senate blue ribbon committee chaired by Sen. Joker Arroyo on Tuesday.

In a privilege speech last week, opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson accused Mike Arroyo of allegedly laundering P270 million using the assumed name of Jose Pidal.

Pimentel pointed out that the inquiry being conducted by three Senate committees led by the blue ribbon was different from the impeachment trial of ousted president Joseph Estrada.

In that instance, the Senate was transformed into an impeachment court to try Estrada for culpable violations of the Constitution.

Under the impeachment rules, the Senate as a trial court assumed judicial powers and thus had coercive powers over the banks.

Although he admitted that corruption was a "predicate" crime, "you ought to establish that in a case already filed which will enable the court to issue the subpoena."

"(Lacson) talked about account numbers, but how do you produce the account numbers?" Pimentel asked.

He said the allegations had to first graduate into a criminal case before any subpoena could be issued against a bank.

But the current Senate inquiry was just "an investigation in aid of legislation," said Pimentel.

"There is no (criminal) case," he said.

While refraining from commenting on the merits of Lacson's charges, Pimentel said the senator's case against Mike Arroyo would suffer should his principal witness, Eugenio Mahusay Jr., who has been removed from his protection, decide to recant.

Joker Arroyo said his committee has already summoned a total of 16 witnesses to attend the Senate hearings.

"All the names submitted by Senator Lacson as his witnesses have been sent notices," he said. Mahusay and two new witnesses—Erwin Lapuz and Ferdinand Galvez—were also summoned.

Lapuz and Galvez are employees of the Union Bank branch on Perea Street in Makati.

Ombudsman urged to act on Ping's accounts

By Carlito Pablo

YOUNG guns in the House yesterday pushed for the immediate resolution of cases filed before the Ombudsman against Sen. Panfilo Lacson in connection with his alleged hidden wealth in the United States.

Official documents submitted to the Philippine government by the US Attorney General's Office have revealed Lacson's supposed $1.1 million in six bank accounts.

Assistant Majority Leader Rep. Allan Peter Cayetano (Lakas, Pateros-Taguig), and Reps. Del de Guzman (Lakas, Marikina) and Robert Ace Barbers (Lakas, Surigao del Norte) said the Ombudsman had no reason to continue sitting on the cases.

The lawmakers reminded the Ombudsman that the documents backing up these cases had been provided through the RP-US Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty. They said delays in the prosecution gave the impression that the Philippines lacked the political will to swiftly probe alleged crimes committed by its officials."

A joint statement issued by the three solons supported an earlier call by Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez (NP, Iloilo City) to expedite the cases.

In a letter to Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo on Wednesday, Cayetano noted that Lacson had previously denied owning any such bank accounts, and even vowed to resign if the charge was proven.

Gonzalez said the cases had not moved since they were filed by the Department of Justice through the National Bureau of Investigation in August 2002.

Inaction on an important case involving someone who had declared his intent to run for President was "an injustice to the Filipino people," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez also noted that aside from the cases stemming from his US bank accounts, Lacson was also facing kidnapping and murder charges.

He warned that the Office of the Ombudsman would have some serious explaining to do when the House deliberates on its budget for 2004.

All the cases against Lacson were filed before Marcelo's appointment as Ombudsman in October 2002. The cases had been referred by the NBI to then Acting Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio who, Gonzalez said, "probably sat on the cases."

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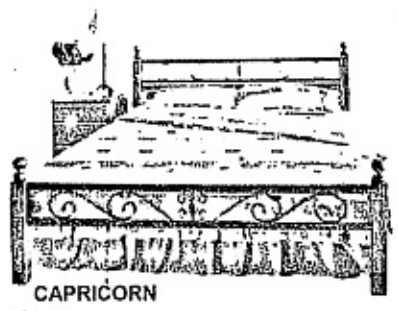

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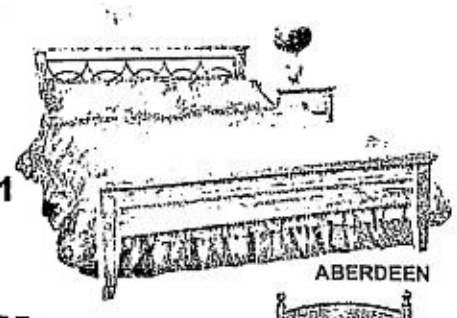

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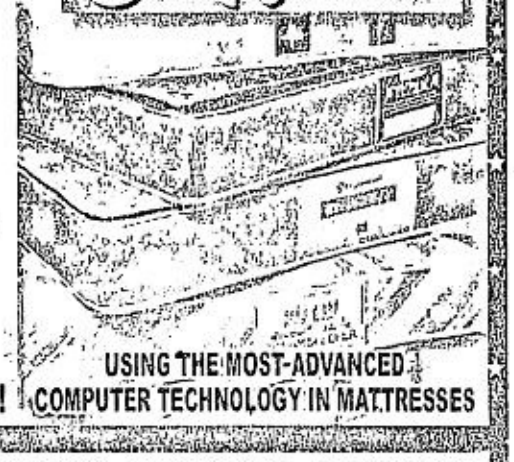

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   a. Dark Water
   b. Mars Attacks
   c. The Ring
   d. Superman
2. Seeing ghosts? Have weird dreams? You can write to...
   a. Jaime T. Licauco
   b. Cory Quirino
   c. Pam Pastor
   d. Maurice Arcache
3. What is the Chinese art of harmonic placement?
   a. Kung Hei Fat Choi
   b. Fung Shui
   c. Wo ay ni
   d. Hua Ce Lei
4. Which is not a cellular phone service provider?
   a. Globe
   b. Smart
   c. Meralco
   d. Sun Cellular
5. This is the Inquirer regional paper circulated in the Visayas region
   a. Cebuano Today
   b. Visayan Forum
   c. Cebu Daily News
   d. Inquirer Libre

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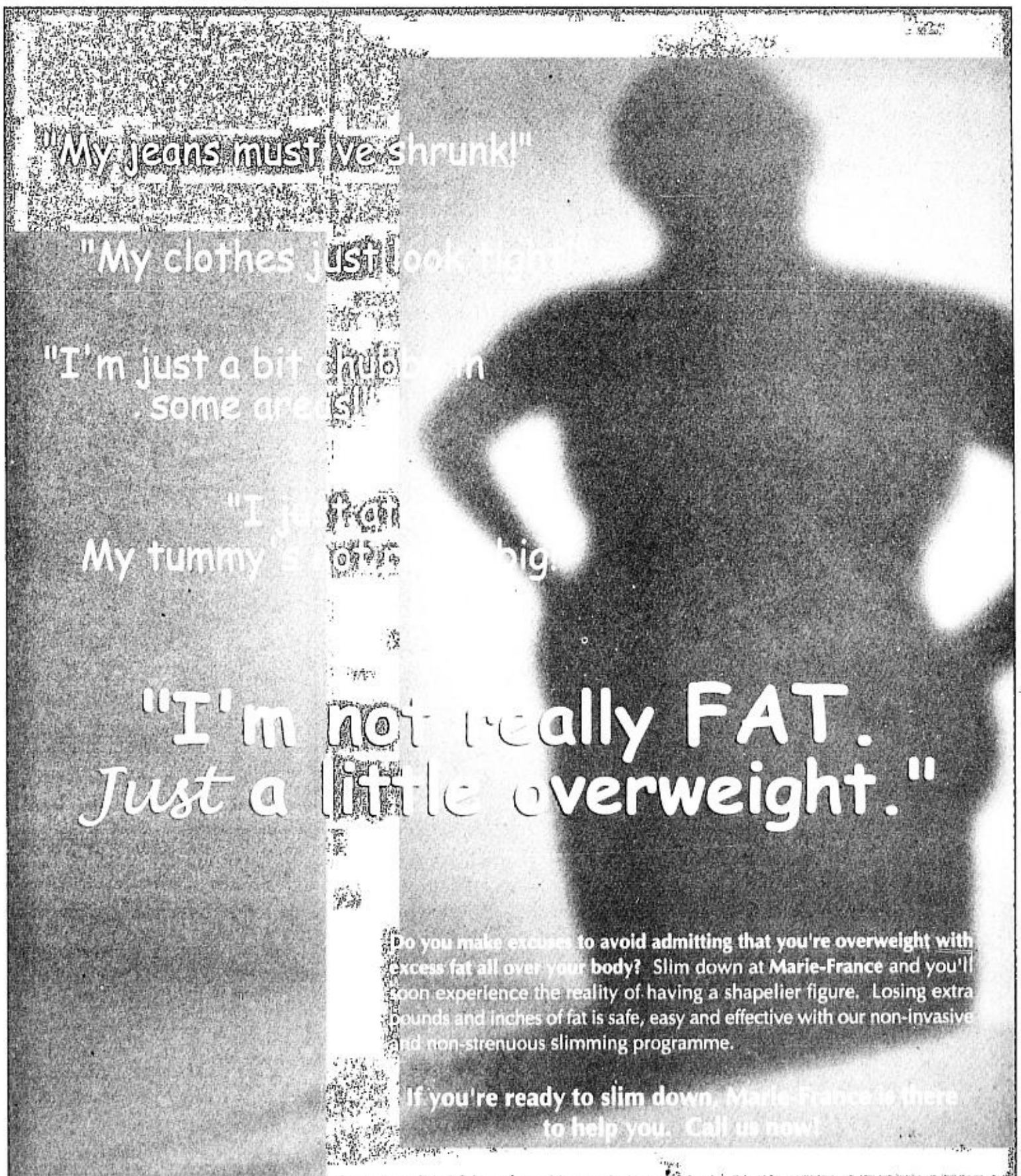

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Mutineers misled, shortchanged, probers told

By Michael Lim Ubac

SOME of the enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces who went to Oakwood on July 27 were not only misled, they were also shortchanged.

This was the conclusion that some senators made during the Committee of the Whole's third and final hearing yesterday on the short-lived mutiny.

Senate President Franklin Drilon limited this assessment to the members of the Philippine Army (PA) who were summoned yesterday.

They were Technical Sgt. Leonel Alnas, Sgt. Manolito Dagdag, Corporals Ramoncito Tampon and Paul Paner, and PFCs John Gaitan, Joseph Tedera and Vergel Ponce.

Drilon said he could not "make any conclusion or assessment" with regards to the Navy soldiers who were also summoned, because they had invoked their right to remain silent.

The Navy men were PO3 Roulex Mag-isa; Marines Technical Sergeants Noel Aggalut and Jesuscratis Soleda; and Marines PFC Abraham Apostol and Galib Mohammad.

As far as he knew, Army man Tedera said, "we were going on a legitimate operation."

Alnas told the senators that they were kept in the dark as to the real nature of their operation. On July 26, he recounted, Lt. Sonny Sarmiento, commanding officer of the Army's First Infantry Division in San Isidro, Montalban, asked him to form two platoons to prepare for an anti-dissident operation up in the mountains.

He said the troops then took two mini buses that brought them to Makati instead.

Now, Alnas said, he and his fellow soldiers being held in detention for coup d'etat charges were also frustrated that the government had not fulfilled its end of the negotiations.

Dagdag pointed out that among the agreements was for the mutineers to go "back to barracks" or to their mother unit.

During the same hearing, some soldiers said some of their fellow mutineers were offered up to P1 million to withdraw their statement against the government.

PO2 Rodolfo Aboac of the Philippine Navy (PN) claimed that some of his comrades were offered "not only P500,000, but P1 million."

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon had asked if it was true that someone had offered the soldiers at least half a million to withdraw their earlier charges that the military top brass sold ammunition to rebel groups, and plotted the bombing of Davao's Sasa Wharf and international airport.

Aboac said he himself was not directly offered money, but that he believed the stories of his fellow enlisted men.

PO3 Julius Mesa, also of the Navy, supported Aboac's claim, saying "Some of our troops (were) offered P1 million, plus security for their families." He said the offer was made inside the detention center in Camp Aguinaldo.

SN1 Romulado Ganancial said he knew for sure that the offer was relayed to most of the mutineers.

None of the three could tell exactly who was giving the bribe.

A few other mutineers refused to comment on the reported bribe attempt. This exasperated the senators. "Let the court determine what will happen to them," Biazon said at one point. "*Bahala na sila sa buhay nila* (they're on their own)." *With Christine O. Avendaño*

Meralco completes first phase of refund

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE MANILA Electric Co. yesterday said it had completed the first phase of a refund for overcharges ordered by the Supreme Court, making payments totaling P1.6 billion to all customers with active accounts as of end-July.

Leonardo Mabale, chief of Meralco's refund management task force, said the utility was ready to start implementing Phase 2 of the refund process in the beginning of September as ordered by government regulators.

But he said Meralco has asked the Energy Regulatory Commission to extend the end-August deadline for completing the process for the group of low-consumption customers whose service contracts had ended.

While Meralco did not have any problems refunding customers in the Phase 1 category with still active accounts, Mabale said not all of those with terminated services have come forward to claim the refund.

Mabale said Meralco had paid some P131 million to this group comprising those customers who either changed residence or had services to their homes disconnected during the period covered by the refund—between February 1994 and May 2003.

"Our records show that there were 567,000 terminated services with consumption of up to 100 kilowatthour per month, accounting for P500 million in refund money. So far, only 110,000 have availed of the refund," Mabale said.

He said the processing may have to be extended to September or even further.

"We need the cooperation of the customers to come forward and file their claim," he said.

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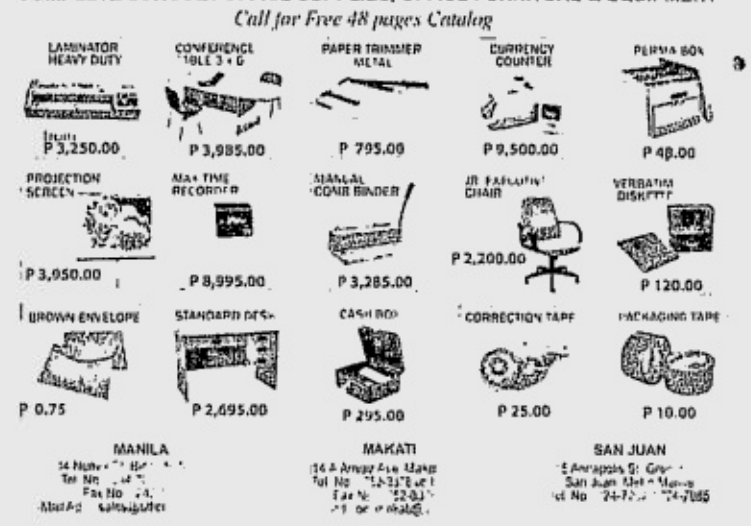
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DOJ to ask Swiss about Perez probe

By Philip C. Tubeza

A TOP justice official said yesterday she would ask "informally" the Swiss embassy to clarify the status of its investigation of former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, who allegedly laundered $2 million in a Swiss account.

"We still have to verify with the Swiss embassy as to what the investigation is really all about," said Justice Undersecretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez.

The Swiss authorities wrote to the foreign affairs department in March, asking for help in their investigation of Perez, his wife Rosario, his brother-in-law Ramon Arceo, and investment banker Ernest Escaler.

A Cabinet official who had seen the letter said Swiss justice officials were suspicious that the $2-million account may contain "laundered" funds from illegal sources.

Switzerland is a member of the Financial Action Task Force, the global anti-money laundering watchdog.

Gutierrez said the Department of Foreign Affairs already gave the Swiss the "necessary answers" to their query.

She said the Swiss had asked if there was "a case filed in any court or body" against Perez that would be relevant to their investigation into the account.

Gutierrez said the DFA forwarded the query to the Office of the Ombudsman and it was the Ombudsman's reply that the DFA sent to the Swiss authorities.

She said there was no record in the DOJ about any case being filed against Perez relating to money laundering.

Gutierrez also said the Philippines was under no obligation to help Switzerland because the two countries do not have a mutual legal assistance treaty.

While they signed such a treaty last year it has yet to be ratified, she said.

This means that the Philippine government would not be able to help the Swiss in obtaining any information that would require court approval, like those relating to bank accounts, she said.

"We cannot be compelled to give assistance," she said.

82 Pinoy deportees arrive

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

A TOTAL of 82 Filipinos deported from the United States for various offenses arrived in the country yesterday amid protests over alleged "secretive" deportation procedures in the US.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople confirmed the arrival of the batch at 10:46 a.m. at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport at the former Clark Air Base in Pampanga, aboard a flight chartered by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) under its Justice Airline Prisoners Transport System (LPATS).

The 82 deportees (not 60 as earlier reported) were escorted by 24 INS agents. 10 Cambodians who were likewise deported from the US were in the same flight en route to their own country.

Ople said the Department of Foreign Affairs regional office at Clark provided consular assistance to the 82 deportees, who had requested the DFA to help protect their privacy.

"Upon the request of the Filipino deportees themselves, we have exerted every effort to ensure that their arrival be kept at a low public profile," Ople told a weekly news conference.

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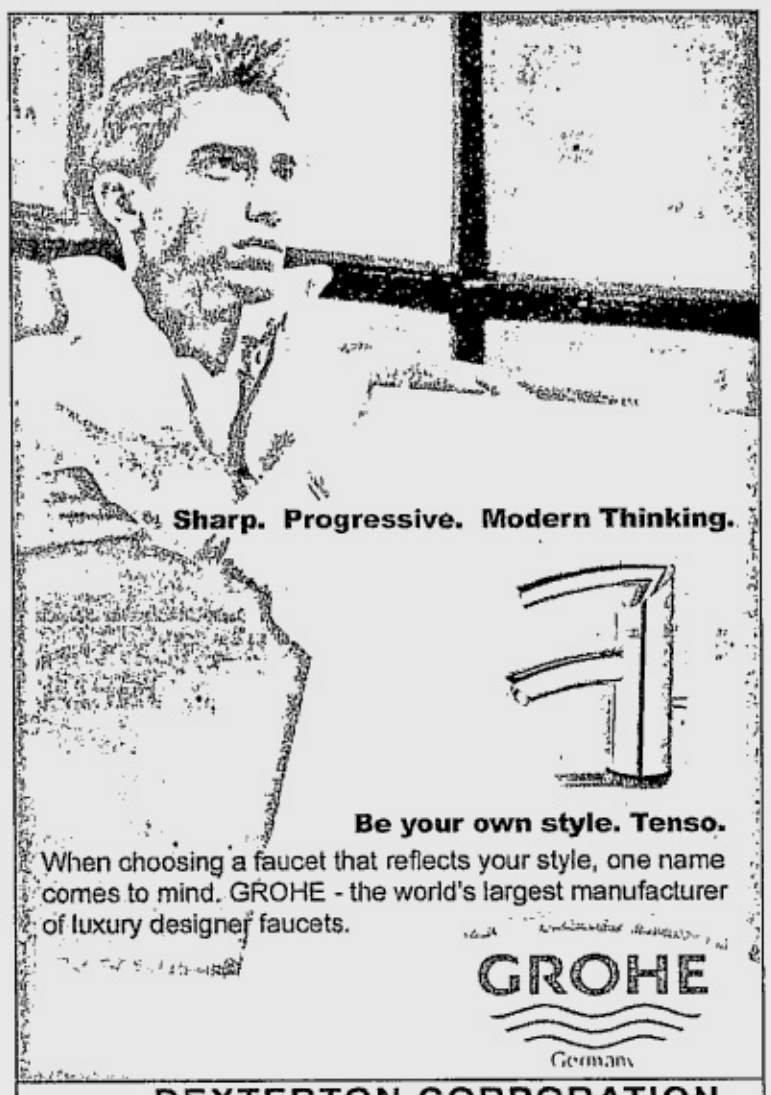

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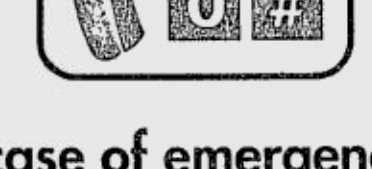

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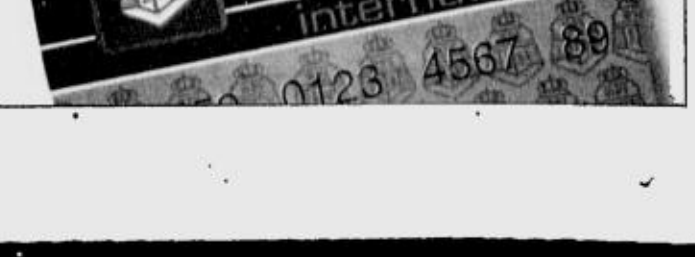


Squatters can still vote if registered, Comelec clarifies

By Martin Marfil

SQUATTERS who have previously voted can still vote next year if their registration is validated.

Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos said the strict implementation of the bonafide resident provision would only be applied to those who transfer residences.

"What we are saying here is that this would only affect transferees," Abalos said during a breakfast forum yesterday at the Centruy Park hotel.

"For example, I live in Welfareville (a squatter area in Mandaluyong), I have child who turned 18, he cannot be refused registration..." he added.

The only ones who would be affected, Abalos said, would be those who transfer from the provinces.

The alternative, Abalos said, is to vote where one is registered.

The remarks came in the wake of reports that the Comelec's national capital region office will strictly enforce the bonafide resident rule.

This had raised fears that about a million squatters would not be able to vote in the 2004 elections.

But in the same forum, an election lawyer said that he was in favor of being strict on squatters, whom he said were being exploited by politicians.

"If we have quality voters, we will have quality leaders. If we have quality leaders, we will have quality life. Once we have quality life, squatters will have quality life and they will have residences of their own," Romy Makalintal said.

To prevent squatters from being exploited, he said that someone should file a petition for their exclusion.

But for a militant group, the proposal was violative of the 1987 Constitution.

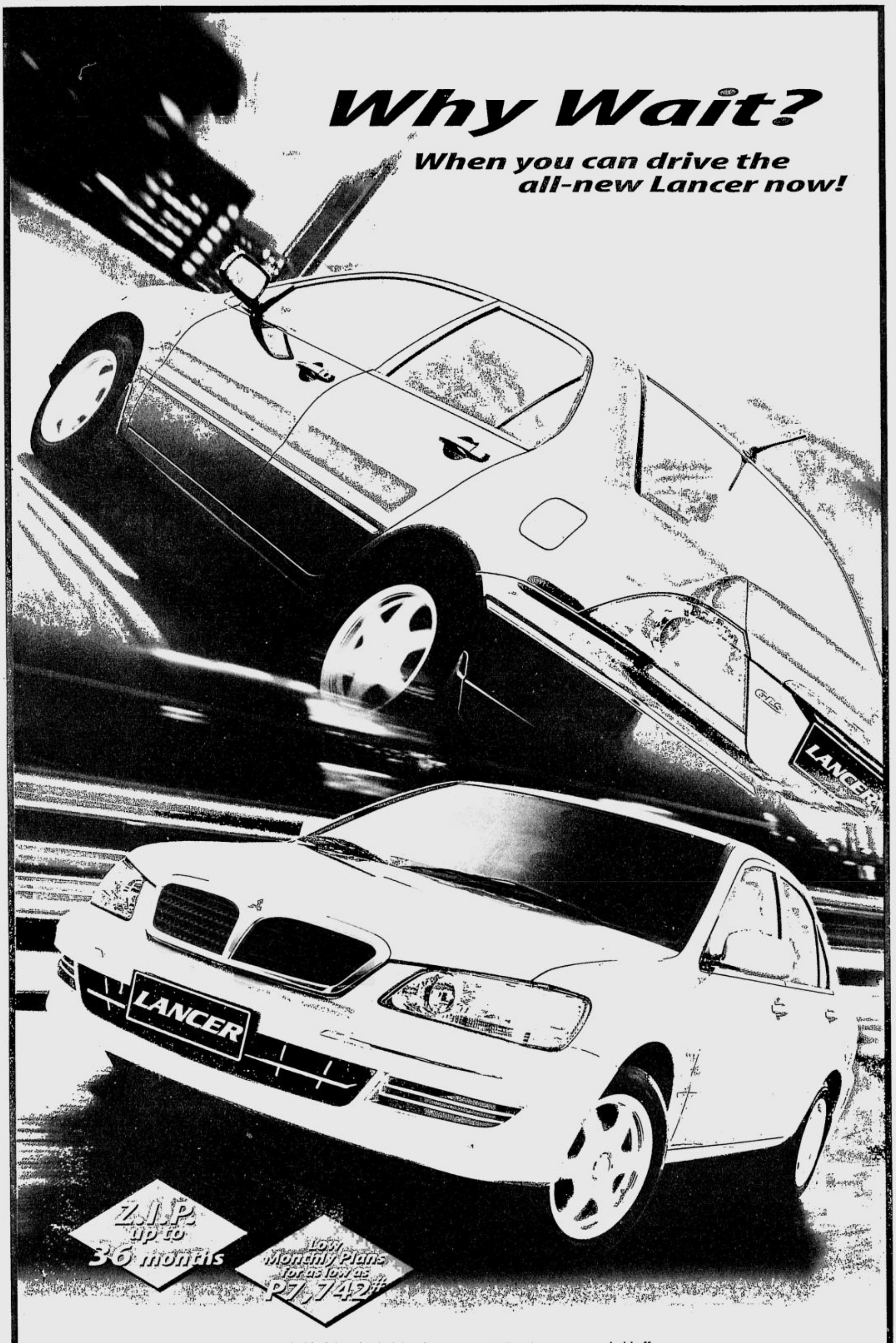
Failon: Why pay human rights victims?

BROADCASTER-turned-Congressman Teodoro "Ted Failon" Etong is no friend of martial law victims.

Etong, who represents the first district of Leyte, said that victims of the Marcos regime should not be compensated for their sufferings because in the first place, they fought the dictatorship without any desire or thought to be indemnified later on.

"They didn't think of compensation then," Etong said when he interpellated Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, one of the principal authors of House Bill 4535 that seeks to provide a P10-billion compensation package for Marcos victims, starting with the 9,539 claimants who earlier won a class suit against the estate of the late dictator in a Hawaii court.

Etong's remarks prompted Rep. Satur Ocampo (Bayan Muna), a co-sponsor of the bill, to stand up and say that he and fellow sponsor Rep. Crispin Beltran (Bayan Muna) are waiving their own personal claims for compensation to avoid potential conflicts. *Carlito Pablo*



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A7

Bacani off the hook? Accuser 'saddened'

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE ACCUSER of Novaliches Bishop Teodoro Bacani continues to trust the Catholic Church to give justice to her cause and help her move on with her life.

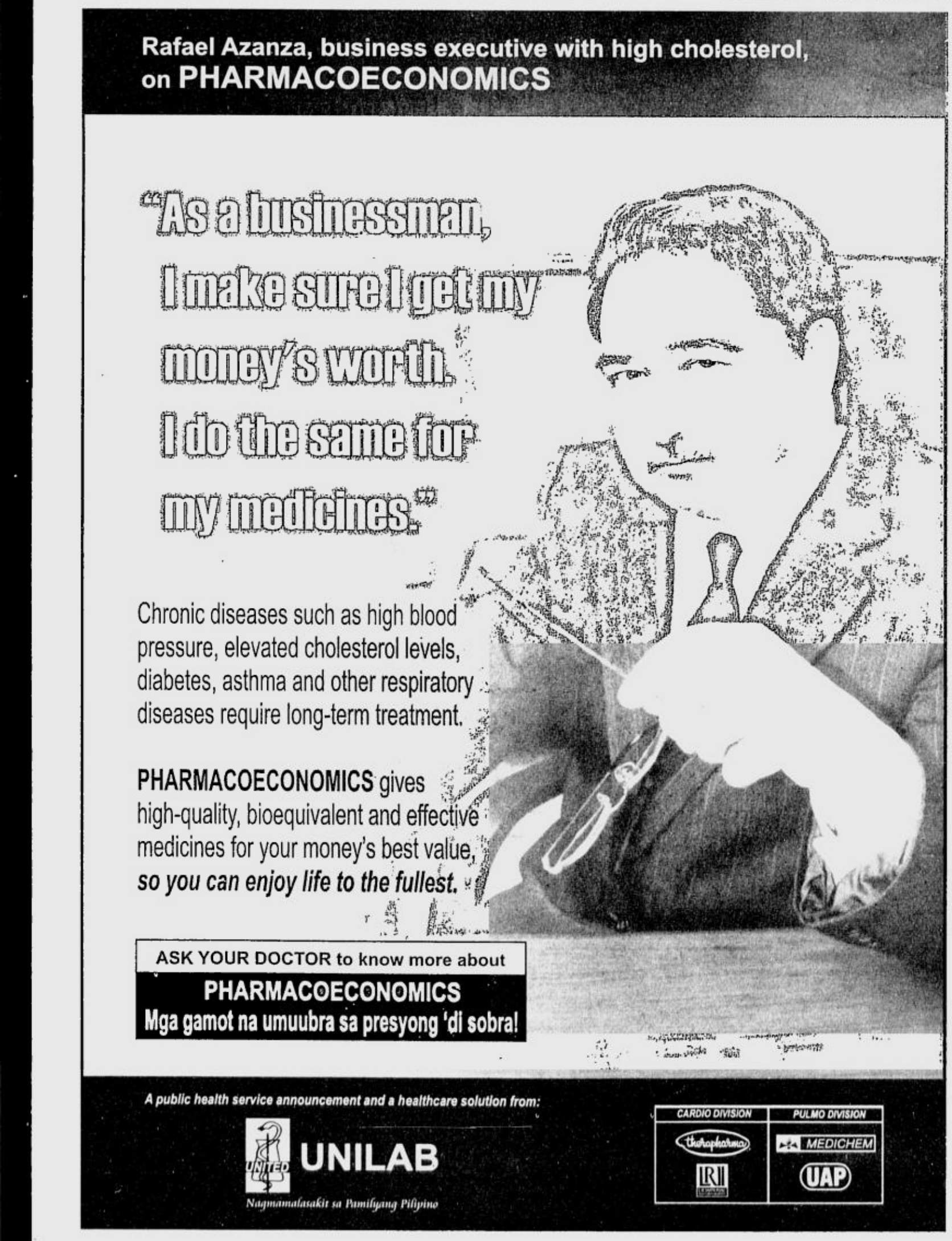
Fr. Robert Reyes, who has been in touch with Bacani's former secretary, said that the woman was saddened by media reports saying that Bacani has been cleared by the Vatican.

Reyes said that the woman "keeps track" of whatever comes out in the media. She reads the papers and watches television regularly, he added.

"She's still waiting and hoping that whatever decision will be arrived at will be fair and based on nothing but the truth and a careful process of discernment and investigation," Reyes said when asked about the woman's reaction to recent media reports.

He said he does not know whether Bacani's accuser is ready for reconciliation and forgiveness as Bacani said he was when he returned to the country last week.

Bacani returned to the country Wednesday night, and in his first media interview Saturday, said that he was seeking forgiveness, peace and reconciliation with everybody.



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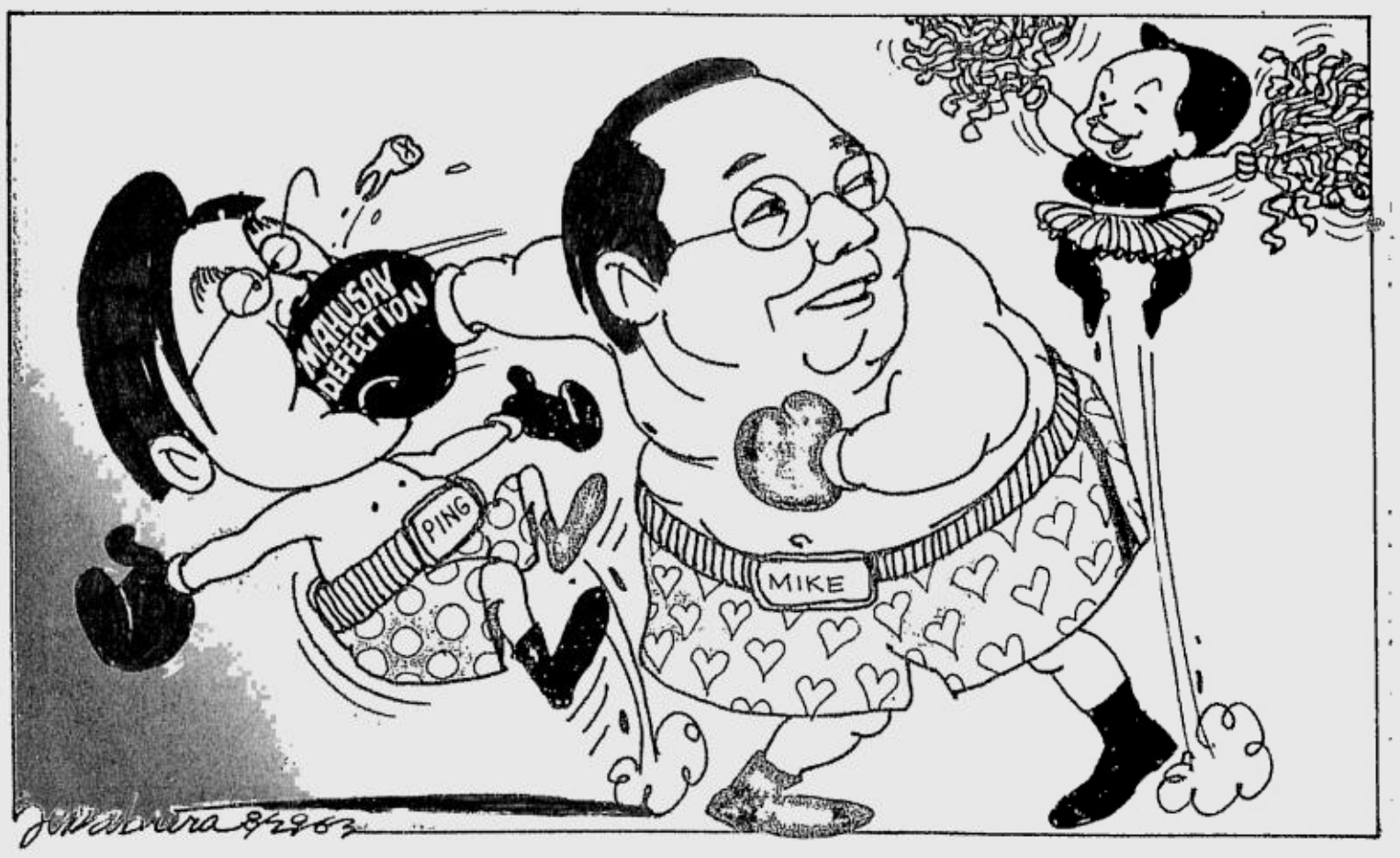

Hit or miss?

EDITORIAL

IF IT were all a game of one-upmanship, then the administration seems to have scored a big—and possibly—decisive point with the return to its side of Eugenio Mahusay Jr. After appearing in public Monday to support Sen. Panfilo Lacson's charges of money laundering and graft and corruption against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, Mahusay appears to have had a change of heart. On Tuesday, he reportedly called Housing Secretary Michael Defensor and requested to be fetched from a small hotel in Tagaytay where he was hiding in the company of Lacson's men. His brother later said that Lacson's star witness had overheard one of his guards saying he would be silenced after he would have testified against Arroyo.

Mahusay had earlier executed an affidavit where he stated that he had seen huge amounts of money being deposited in and withdrawn from several secret bank accounts belonging to Arroyo, including one under the fictitious name Jose Pidal. Money in the millions of pesos was delivered to Arroyo's Makati office by government officials, like Pagcor Chair Efraim Genuino and former Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, as well as several big businessmen like Jeff Cheng of Piatco, said Mahusay who once worked as a messenger in Arroyo's office. All together, he said, he must have brought about P1 billion in cash and checks for deposit in three different banks near their office.

Lifting a page from the Estrada impeachment trial, Lacson said several times that Mahusay was only one foot away when Arroyo signed the checks and indeed helped count the money. But now that his Clarissa Ocampo has flown the coop, where does that leave Lacson?

"He is left holding an empty bag," his fellow oppositionist Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said of Lacson. Pimentel recalled that the same documents had been offered to him earlier but he refused to make an exposé when he could not get a witness who would corroborate Mahusay's story. He added that Lacson's star witness struck him as someone who could be easily intimidated or even bought.

Is this then the end of Lacson's tale of sex and corruption involving the President's husband? Lacson says it is not. He plans to reveal on Monday the second chapter of his version of the "Incredible Hulk." He has vowed to pursue "the issue of corruption" to the very end.

Perhaps he should hurry up before he loses some of his other witnesses. Unlike Pimentel, Senate President Franklin Drilon doesn't believe all is lost after Mahusay's defection. Even Mahusay's retraction of his own affidavit would not render it useless, Drilon said, because retractions are "looked upon with disfavor" by the courts and even investigative bodies like the Senate. Still, losing a vital witness hardly strengthens Lacson's case against Arroyo. Unless he can get other witnesses to identify Pidal and confirm the documents he has in his possession, his case would crumble in no time at all.

Undoubtedly Lacson has embarrassed the Macapagal administration at the very time when it is conducting an anti-corruption campaign in the government. Even if Mahusay were to deny every word written on his signed affidavit, it will not erase everything the public has heard or read. But while many people may be inclined to believe the worst about Arroyo, they may not as easily connect the President to his alleged shenanigans. It will be next to impossible to convince the Filipino people that the President allowed her husband to launder hundreds of millions in dirty money through the bank accounts of his mistress and her relatives, as Lacson has charged.

On the other hand, Malacañang goofed when it lent a hand to the "rescue" of Mahusay. The President did fine when she said she was married to her job, a statement that everyone took to mean that the government would not lift a finger to defend her husband. The operation to get back Mahusay, however, had Malacañang's fingerprints all over the place, starting with Defensor's key participation, the reported use of presidential helicopters, down to Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Bunye's presence at Mahusay's presentation to the press at the PNP Academy in Cavite. In trying to help extricate Arroyo, Malacañang only succeeded in getting entangled in a controversy which it stood a good chance of skirting.

Hail to the Comelec for doing the right thing

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE COMMISSION on Elections did the right thing in strictly enforcing the domicile provision of the election code. This provision allows a voter to register and vote only in the precinct where he has his permanent address. This is to prevent flying voters.

Squatter groups and squatter-coddlers among politicians and the bleeding hearts will surely howl in protest because it would prevent squatters from voting in the places where they are squatting. They will not be disfranchised, however, as they would be allowed to register and vote in their permanent addresses.

New applicants are now required to state if they own their homes, are renting or if they have permission from the owner to stay in the property. Those who were able to register in the past may be excluded from the voters' lists.

The Comelec will surely be subjected to vituperation, but that is what the law states and the Comelec is mandated to implement the law.

Laxity in the enforcement of the domicile requirement is one of the reasons for the proliferation of flying voters and for the worsening of the squatter problem. Because they are allowed to vote in their illegal addresses, they are coddled by politicians. In fact, local politicians encourage and protect them. Barangay officials, who are supposed to be the first line of defense against squatting, actually assign plots to squatters and collect *tong* from them. The Lina Law penalizes public officials who abet squatting, but no barangay official, councilor or mayor or congressman—the foremost squatter-coddlers—has ever been charged with the offense. Which is why, at the approach of every election, armies of squatters invade practically every vacant space, public or private, in hotly contested localities. That is also the reason mayors and barangay captains hesitate to eject squatters even with court orders, even if this is their duty. They are their voters.

Squatter colonies are also the centers of vote buying in every election. Politicians find it easy to buy votes there because of poverty. Squatters don't find anything wrong with accepting bribes from opposing candidates and then voting for the highest bidder. If the practice isn't stopped soon, corruption will rise while morals sink to unprecedented levels.

With squatters now ineligible to vote in their illegal addresses, squatter-coddling by local politicians will probably slacken. They will have to court the votes of property owners; they will hopefully do their duty of preventing squatting.

Squatters and flying voters are expected to lie when asked if they own their homes, are renting or have the permission of the property owner. Continued laxity by Comelec registrars will still stultify the intent of the law.

* * *

The Metro Manila Development Authority has forgotten the sidewalks of Scout Borromeo in Quezon City, bisecting Quezon Avenue, in its campaign to clear the sidewalks of Metro Manila. The sidewalks of this street is crammed not with sidewalk vendors but with parked vehicles. It gives credence to accusations by sidewalk vendors that the MMDA is hard on them but soft on the rich vehicle owners.

Scout Borromeo is the street between National Bookstore and Mercury Drug and Tropical Hut supermarket. The bookstore has basement parking and a large parking lot in front; Mercury Drug and Tropical Hut also have parking lots. So why does the MMDA still allow parking on the sidewalks?

This used to be a one-way street, it being a narrow but busy one. But now that a parallel street, Examiner, a block away, is under repair, two-way traffic is allowed. This makes traffic here congested. And because the sidewalks are occupied by parked vehicles, pedestrians are forced to walk out on the streets, where they run the risk of being sideswiped by passing vehicles or run over by vehicles backing out of parking slots.

The radio program "*Kalikasan* Vigilante" on station dwBR 104.3 FM is on a campaign to clear the sidewalks of parked vehicles and return them to the forgotten pedestrians. The MMDA, local government units and the Philippine National Police—who ostensibly have similar campaigns—would do well to coordinate with them.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE is quite long but very funny.

A long, long time ago, God went missing for six days. On the seventh day, Michael the Archangel found Him looking smug and happy.

"Where have you been?" the angel asked.

God pointed down through the clouds. "Look, Michael, what I've created. My masterpiece."

"What is it?"

"It's a planet," replied God, "and I've put life on it. I'm going to call it Earth and it's going to be a great place of balance."

"Balance? What's that?" asked the angel.

God explained, pointing to the different parts of earth. "For example, northern Europe will be a place of great opportunity and wealth but cold and harsh, while southern Europe is going to be poor but sunny and pleasant. I have made some lands abundant in water and other lands parched deserts. This place will be extremely hot while this place will be very cold and covered in ice."

"So that's balance, great," said Michael. "But what are those?" pointing to a group of islands.

"Ah, that's the Philippines," said God, "the most glorious place on earth. There are beautiful beaches, rivers, mountains and forests. The people from the Philippines will be good-looking, modest, intelligent and humorous and they will travel the world. They will be very sociable, hospitable, hardworking and high achieving, and they will be known throughout the world as carriers of peace and love."

Michael gasped in awe and admiration, but then asked: "But where is the balance, God? You said there would be balance."

God replied: "Ah, wait until you see the idiots I put in their government."

Recantations

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

WE WERE on our way to Infanta last Wednesday for Bishop Julio Labayen's retirement from the Prelature after 42 years—a veritable lifetime!—and were furiously switching radio stations all day. At the end of the day, one station aired a brief interview with Eugenio Mahusay Jr.

Mahusay said he was doing a lot of sleeping and relaxing after having gone through a stressful last few weeks. He said he had not been thinking right lately and was sorry for having hurt certain people. Asked if he would recant his testimony and apologize to the First Gentleman, he said, we are all human, we make mistakes; people who make mistakes try to amend them. That was all he was prepared to say at this point, he said. He would express his sentiments more clearly known in the next few days.

His brother, Jojo, the cop, as usual spoke for him in a separate interview. He elaborated on his story that his brother, Eugenio, had been under duress and had repeatedly called last Tuesday begging to be rescued from where he was. Eugenio had been moving around from place to place, Jojo quoted his brother as saying, and was in great fear for his life. Thankfully, they had managed to get to him in time. He was reunited with his family now and had returned to his senses.

Will Eugenio's looming recantation—if he hasn't already made it—matter in the end?

Well, before I heard Eugenio and his brother indicate it at the end of the day, I heard other things at the beginning of the day. While surfing through stations, I heard around a dozen comments from radio listeners on the events that had just transpired the day before. Of the dozen comments, one said she had faith in the President and the First Gentleman and only contempt for Ping Lacson whom she said was a liar. Another said "*pare-pareho lang naman sila*" ("They are all the same").

The rest thought Arroyo was guilty as hell. They thought Eugenio Mahusay's (original) statements were true, they thought Mike Defensor abducted him, they believed Mahusay would change his story but it wouldn't matter because then he would be under real duress. One quipped that maybe Mike Defensor took Mahusay to give him a *pabahay*, or housing loan. Another quipped that Mike Arroyo did not just steal money, he also stole persons.

I asked my own friends, many of them largely apolitical what they thought about it, and got pretty much the same ratio.

Of course truth is not a popularity contest. What all this merely suggests is that this is how the public sees things.

The first thing I myself thought last Tuesday was that government had made a horrendous, and probably fatal, blunder. Yes, government. I heard Defensor explain his side on radio, and I was among those filled with incredulity when he said he did it out of his own initiative. The idea that one of GMA's lieutenants would spirit away, without government blessings, the one witness that has the power to undo government—just so he could do right by one of his bodyguards (Jojo)—simply strains credulity. The Japanese might do it (watch Akira Kurosawa's "High and Low"), but not Defensor, despite his name.

The idea in any case is subverted, as everyone has pointed out, by the use of government resources, including the PSG, to storm a safe house that was guarded by two men who were not even armed.

There are other loopholes in Defensor's—and Jojo's—story. Chief of them is why Eugenio, who is presumably in dire threat of being rubbed out by Lacson's thugs after having outlived his usefulness, just happened to have a cellular phone. One would imagine that if his captors were setting him up for the kill, the first thing they would take away from him would be his means of communication. Indeed, the first thing they would take away from him would be his cell phone, this country's favorite instrument of gossip. What should his captors imagine he would use it for—to text jokes?

As to the idea that Eugenio Mahusay was under duress when he said those things, that is refuted not just by his behavior during his press conference—people under duress do not tend to volunteer information—but by Nene Pimentel's testimony that Mahusay approached him with the same information months ago.

I have known Nene Pimentel for a long time, and though I repeatedly criticized him for having been sucked into Erap's camp some years ago, I never criticized him for lying or deceiving. He is not someone easily accused of doing either, and his detractors—I heard someone suggested on radio that his statement was part of the opposition's conspiracy to unseat government—are wisely forewarned to avoid that tack. It will not prosper in the court of law or of public opinion. That alone knocks off the story that Mahusay was coerced into doing what he did.

There is one last idea peddled by those who have seized Lacson's star witness, and that is that Lacson is a thoroughgoing blackguard and should not be believed. Right premise, wrong conclusion. I myself have no great love lost for Lacson, who I will say again deserves to be haled to court for Kuratong Baleleng and other crimes. But I had no love lost either for Chavit Singson three years ago, and I believed him. Lest we forget, the first thing Estelito Mendoza did during the Erap impeachment trial was to suggest that Singson was a liar and a thief. That was the thrust of his opening statements. All Mendoza did was draw up a mirror to himself.

The point is simple. Sometimes it takes a thief to catch a thief. We just need to count our blessings.

We don't need to thank the thief.

Safe in the Senate

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

SEN. Gregorio Honasan showed up in the Senate after dropping out of public view for 31 days as a fugitive from justice. His reappearance is the latest act of his habitual shuttling across the twilight zone between legal politics and the conspiratorial world where plots to seize power have been hatched for the past 15 years.

Honasan made much of his reentry into the safe bosom of parliamentary immunity provided by the Senate by announcing, with the flair of celebrity gimmickry, that he was going back to his elected job of being a senator, and would discharge his responsibility to the "national constituency" who elected him.

When voters elected him, they expected he would devote his time doing his homework writing legislation full-time rather than engaging in seditious conspiracies, subsidized by taxpayers's money in a state, whose chief organ to rule the country—the government—he has persistently plotted to overthrow.

No sooner had Honasan been embraced by his Senate colleagues than he right away mocked the democratic system that he had tried to destroy by laying down arrogant conditions for his good behavior. Honasan invoked the right to due process, upon which a democratic system rests, by challenging the jurisdiction of the justice department to conduct preliminary hearings on the coup d'état charges the government has laid against him for allegedly being the mastermind of the failed July 27 coup. He said he would go underground again if the "wheels of justice fail to turn." His good behavior will be determined by his own norms of justice.

While he suggested he would go back to illegal political action and the life of a hunted man if he is not satisfied that he would get justice, he also engaged in double talk: his reappearance was an expression of his "continued faith in the judicial system" and the "rule of law."

It is possible that when Honasan turned up at the Senate, it was not faith in the judicial system that motivated him but fear for his life. This time around, after his involvement in the May 1, 2001 rebellion, the authorities may already have lost patience with him and may not be as forgiving as they have been with the coups of the 1980s in which Honasan played a central role.

Words have become cheap when uttered by political mountebanks like Honasan who has, during most of his public life, suffered from split loyalty between his incurable vocation for coup plotting and his electoral mandate that now gives him a ticket to enjoy the power and immunities of parliamentary office.

When Honasan was hatching coups, due process did not seem to be his main concern and due process was, indeed, an obstacle to seizing power. Due process is not part of the political vocabulary of the coup d'état. Coups have no use for due process. They are executed by force of arms and their aim is no less than seizure of state power, which in a democracy is vested upon those elected by the people. Coups and due process are incompatible, and Honasan, who has offered himself for the presidency, is probably aware he has little chance of getting elected, and so he chose the coup as his short cut to power.

Honasan has an undistinguished record in the Senate, and one is hard put to discover any significant legislation he has crafted. Because of this scanty record, Honasan has not paid back the mandate of his "national constituency," whose expectation he has disappointed and whose trust he has betrayed by engaging in conspiratorial activities. The only notable legislative homework attributed to Honasan, for which he has claimed authorship, is his National Recovery Program, whose contents are a hodgepodge of political homilies and nonsense. If this is all he has drafted, then taxpayers' money has been wasted on him.

The NRP, rather than spelling out a profound political philosophy and policy, has become the blue print and source of inspiration for mutinous young officers dazzled by the coup escapades of Honasan. The NRP has, indeed, become the blueprint of and disguise for coups, in the same way that National Socialism was a method in the Nazi seizure of power in Germany, in the same way that corporatism was less an ideological platform for fascism than a formula to seize power by Benito Mussolini.

All the time that Honasan has been in the Senate, he has been wearing two hats—as a legislature in a democratic system that abhors guns as an instrument to win power, and as an enemy of the democratic ideal, embedded in the parliamentary organ of the state. Thus, Honasan, wearing the disguise of a senator, was undermining the democratic system in which the legislature is one of its cornerstone.

Honasan wants the best of both worlds—as a senator and as a coup conspirator. He can't have it both ways. In both legislation and in coup-making, Honasan has been a demonstrated failure. He is undistinguished in both enterprises. There is no reason why he should be welcomed back to the Senate, whose democratic traditions contravene his own dictatorial tendencies. Because he has dug himself into a hole with his conspiratorial activity, he needs the Senate more badly now than at any time in the past. He can use the power and the immunity and the camaraderie of the Senate to protect him, and this is why he has returned to its sanctuary. The Senate cannot always wrap its protective mantle around members whose view of power contradicts the democratic ethic.

A 'Cinderella story'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I'M PUTTING this right here for all lovers of fine movies, since it would be a shame if you didn't catch Pedro Almodovar's "Talk to Her (Hable con Ella)." There wasn't such a big crowd in the movie house when we watched it the other day, so I'm afraid the movie isn't going to be around for much longer. But if you have the time, go, go now and see it!

I assure you, it'll be worth it. The winner of the 2003 Oscar for Best Original Screenplay—in itself quite a feat—"Talk to Her" tells the story of two women in a coma and two men who love them. One of the men, Benigno, is a nurse who develops an obsession for Alicia, a ballet dancer who becomes his patient when she falls into a coma after a car accident. The other man, Marco, is a journalist in love with Lydia, a female matador, but is unable to reach out to her after she's severely wounded in a bullfight.

It is Benigno, who has been looking after Alicia for four years, who teaches Marco not just how to continue nurturing the ties that bind him to his comatose lover ("talk to her," he urges Marco, "she is listening!"), but also how to open his heart to all of life. And just in time, for when Benigno gets into trouble and loses Alicia, only Marco can help him.

The movie is the very model of simplicity, consisting of cross-cutting flashbacks that weave the stories of the two pairs of "lovers" with their present confinement in the hospital. But while the structure of the movie is simple, it's also laden with texture, feeling, humor and erotica. (Watch out for the "silent movie" that presages a turning point in the story.) I was moved much more than I expected, an effect I'm sure the music, especially a vocal rendition of "Paloma," helped create. "Talk to Her" is one movie not to be missed!

* * *

NOW for a bit of good, positive news for a change.

Paying a courtesy call yesterday on President Macapagal at Malacañang were the members of the victorious Bacolod team that emerged as champions in the recent World Series Junior Girls Softball championship in Kirkland, Washington, United States.

After the girls showed her their victory banner and presented her with an honorary team jacket, the President handed the girls from Paglaum (a village on the outskirts of Bacolod) a check for P1 million, an incentive for their winning performance.

A newspaper report says the team's 2-0 victory over Puerto Rico in the title match "gave the Philippines its first World Series crown since 1992 when a team from Zamboanga was stripped of the crown it won in Pennsylvania" on allegations of fielding over-aged and unqualified players. The girls' victory, then, was not just a great honor for the country, but also a vindication of Filipino honor and pride.

Beyond that, though, the team's victory is a real "Cinderella" story, a fascinating tale of how girls from a small town overcame the odds and showed the world what they're made of.

* * *

THE GIRLS, from 12 to 14 years of age, come from Paglaum, a small village on the outskirts of Bacolod, and belong to farming families, their parents working in the sugar cane fields or else engaged in fishing and rice and coconut farming. Rufino Ignacio, one of the Filipino-Americans in Washington who played host to the team, says the girls brought pictures of their nipa huts and the dilapidated premises of the Paglaum Village National High School.

As Ignacio tells it, the team almost didn't make the trip for lack of money for their plane fare. Funds raised by their sponsors, including Little League Philippines and politicians and business people in Negros, were not enough for their needs. So as a last ditch effort, the team's coach and the school principal took out a loan for P100,000, though perhaps the President's check should now ease their anxieties somewhat.

Upon arrival in the US, the girls and their coach stayed with a host family, the Shannons, all of them crowded into the Shannons' modest home, although once the tournament began, the USA Little League housed them in a hotel. But they faced more than logistical challenges. Ignacio describes the Paglaum girls as the "smallest" among all the players in the tournament, who were "heftier and taller and from their looks, stronger."

Despite their physical disadvantages, however, the young Pinays became the "darling of the crowd," racking up a "very impressive record" and winning everyone's admiration for their "discipline and decorum."

* * *

THE STORY of the Paglaum girls, though, is also the story of how the entire Filipino-American community in the area came together to lend their moral, physical and financial support for the plucky team.

Fil-Ams from as far as Oregon and British Columbia came in droves to cheer on the Paglaum girls. The Ilonggos Northwest Association, the Filipino Community of Seattle, and a regional Fil-Am association, the FACSPS, combined resources to make the girls feel welcome. The FACSPS, headed by Ignacio, gathered used clothing, shoes, toiletries, canned goods and other items and packed them in *balikbayan* boxes for the girls to take home to their families.

"As the team is not used to eating bread in the hotel, the Ilonggos and FACSPS prepared food for them, potluck style, and the team heartily ate with other Filipinos after each game," recounts Ignacio. "The girls said they had the best meals in their young lives during the tournament."

Ignacio notes that the Paglaum girls left the Philippines with "no money, hardly noticed, and thinking perhaps they had no chance of winning." But now, they have returned as heroes, or rather, as young heroines.

Everyone loves an underdog, but victorious underdogs are loved even more. This is one "Cinderella story" that deserves to be told and retold.

Living amid SARS in the 21st century

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHEN my nieces came to visit me in Kyoto last June they were held up briefly in the airport because they were frank in their health declarations. There must be truth to the rumor that children do not lie—one declared she had diarrhea, the other cough. So they were set aside and their temperatures checked, then the little one registered heat over 40 degrees! It was later discovered that the thermometer had a faulty battery and both were thus declared SARS-free and allowed entry into Japan. Those were the days when face masks, vitamin supplements and alcogel were sold out. It takes SARS to make us vigilant about our health, to make us conscious about sneezing in public or washing our hands more often. In retrospect, we should look into the way media scared people into noticing a disease that did not kill half as much people as dengue, TB and cancer given the same time frame. When I think of the SARS scare I try to imagine what it was like to have a cholera epidemic in the Philippines in the late 19th and early 20th-centuries.

Reading through "Unofficial Letters of an Official's Wife" (1908), the impressions of a trip around the Philippines by Edith Moses, there are a number of letters describing how the Americans coped with a cholera epidemic in 1902. They hosed off their servants and the extended families living in the house with disinfectant. She then described the cholera germ in such a frightening way that she noticed everyone keeping their mouths shut lest a *microbio* jump in. Then she explained to the Chinese cook "Cholera all same cockroach, only velly small. He hide in dirt, and jump out to kill China boy and Filipino. If China boy keep house clean, no die." They stopped eating fresh vegetables and fruits (no cleaning solution then) and only got these when taken fresh out of a can. Meats were well-done, bread was always toasted, all plates, glasses and utensils scalded before every meal. Distilled water was available free from the Manila Ice Plant and these were kept in sterilized bottles. Though one day Mrs. Moses caught the Chinese cook placing the distilled water into the sterilized bottles in his own way. As the bottles were hot, he would cool these using (possibly contaminated) tap water and after then did he put in the distilled water. So much for sanitation.

More drastic measures meant nobody was allowed to take water from the rivers, surface wells were filled in and the government considered monopolizing the sale of cooked vegetables. Fruits from outside Manila were not allowed in. Ice cream and sherbet could only be had close to the cold storage and ice plant. No ambulant vendors selling "dirty" ice cream were allowed to roam the streets. Imported Hong Kong vegetables were blamed for the cholera epidemic and thus one shipment, $5,000 worth, were dumped into Manila Bay. Quarantine centers were set up, whole districts with nipa huts were burned, relatives were not allowed to hold a wake for the dead nor choose where they would be buried. It reached a point where the Filipinos were supposedly more scared of the American Sanitary Inspector than cholera itself.

Two decades earlier, in 1882, thousands of people died of the cholera epidemic and we can see this so clearly in the correspondence of Rizal with members of his family. Rizal was then a medical student in Madrid when he received a letter from his brother Paciano dated Sept. 15, 1882 that reads in part:

"When [the epidemic] was officially declared in Manila, land and sea communications were somewhat interrupted. Ships coming from filthy ports were forbidden to stop here. The steamers that come from Manila go directly to Sta. Cruz (Laguna) to be fumigated and quarantined for 12 hours. Towns are not allowed to communicate with each other or enjoy any consideration, except with the permission of the government...As to the social life in our town, many people go to church in the morning to attend daily prayers as prescribed by the Archbishop's pastoral letter. There is a continuous movement of men carrying bottles to get medicine...In the afternoon there are bonfires in many places to serve as disinfectant and the people again go to church to recite the novena to San Roque. At night processions, sometimes three, cross one another in the streets until late hours. At their conclusion the participants eat at the house of the leader, who prepares food and fireworks as much as his resources permit...

"Now that the plague is at its peak, an average of 15 persons die daily. From night to morning healthy and robust men become corpses or at least, so completely unrecognizable and emaciated, hovering between life and death." Paciano comments on the sad plight of cholera victims many of whom were abandoned by their families for fear of contagion. Then comes the ultimate indignity, they are not allowed to be buried in the Catholic cemetery but, "are wrapped up and buried with the Chinese. It is a sad thing to die under these circumstances and of this disease; one is exposed to be devoured by dogs. I doubt very much if the grave has a depth of two spans and there is a throng of dogs around."

Thinking of the thousands who perished in the 1882 cholera epidemic and of the way SARS was contained so quickly makes me happy I live in the 21st century.

* * *

Comments are welcome at avcampo@ateneo.edu

The cleansing

HIGH BLOOD

Asuncion David Maramba

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

THERE it was, the bad word coming out of the fax machine: "moderately differentiated infiltrating adenocarcinoma arising in an adenomatous polyp of colon." I knew that "that" word had something to do with the dreaded disease, the dirty rag we'd pick up by the tips of our fingers and drop in the nearest waste can immediately. I couldn't bring myself to even say the word.

No, my world didn't come crashing down. It was a little-by-little thing. Was this real? Thoughts flitted in and out of my mind.

The bad thing about this sickness was you didn't know whether you were coming or going; if going, how soon; if staying, for how long. I imagined that people would now whisper that I had "it," that no wonder I looked "peaked," and speculate on how "bad" my "stage" was. "Borrowed time" and "lease on life" became very real and my prayer from now on would be like that of a survivor who just asked God, "plus two," "plus four" until the pluses carried clear through to old age. There are as many survivors as those who die, I consoled myself. But there are a lot of deserving people who should be healed, but aren't; so who am I to be healed?

I was tempted to make covenants with God; "heal me and I'll serve." Some friends told me that most probably I had a "mission." The trouble is, I don't feel messianic at all and I am convinced that being fully my "self" is all God expects of me.

I had my pessimistic moments; when mixed with genuine detachment, I said, "no one really needs me; there's nothing more I want to attain. I've lived; I can go." Did not the psalmist say, "Seventy is the sum of our years, or eighty if we are strong"? The main fear was the pain. At my optimistic best, I was as a child trusting that God would zap the bad cells and stop them dead in their tracks.

I mobilized my prayer brigade. I called up relatives and friends, nuns and priests, the seminaries where I taught. How reassuring were their words. Before the operation I seesawed between fear, anxiety, calm, suspense, fatalism, acceptance; but the best refuge was to go "*dead-ma*."

Our son Ricky, guided me through meditation for the cleansing of my whole being, of everything that had to get out of my mind-heart-body-soul and spirit; and the flowing in for the healing of what he called energy, but which I called grace—but what's in a name.

I was in the hands of two excellent doctors: gastroenterologist Antonio Comia and colonic surgeon Jose Antonio Salud whose youth actually buoyed me. So did Asian Hospital, truly hotel as well as hospital. Given two options, we chose resection, the radical option.

The pre-operation preparations left me so utterly spent that I welcomed sedation and the operation, the sooner the better. Torturous was the long post-operation recovery. "You have to be patient; that's why you're called a patient," said my surgeon. How true. I had to wait for nature's own leap to recovery.

"Dear all," I updated my prayer warriors. "On my 14th day and finally getting more normal, i.e., three meals (however small) a day without throwing up or feeling nauseous. Getting the digestive system back to work from putting food in one's mouth to defecating(!) is a magnum opus. That gross function of farting has never been so important; imagine. I can now look a bit lightly at the experience, but seriously I wouldn't wish it on an enemy. The good news is the pathological reports: 'No residual malignancy.' 'No malignancy in all sections.'"

And the second update: "One month tomorrow, July 10. Return of digestive tract to normalcy is inch by inch from my salivary glands and the digestive juices up to constipation. I had an 'earthquake' last June 10 and after-shocks this whole month in my abdomen: *naninigas, nababanat, humihilab, kumukulo*, etc. in parts or all over—until I guess, the 'earth' (my intestines, i.e.) settles down. It's either my age or my constitution or my disposition or all of the above; but I feel that that operation took so much from me. I had a pedicure and hair trim (about time) yesterday and walked gingerly in a small supermarket. I hope the tide is turning."

I thanked them all for their prayers, visits, cards, food and flowers and (especially) phone calls that couldn't reach me and intentions to visit (those who have suffered gas pain will know why).

Their return messages lightened up my life: "Intestine removal is a sure-fire way to lose weight. You will soon recapture your teenage figure." "We have a lot to look ahead for, inspite of age. What's that!" "Warmest welcome on your return trip back from the rack. Now you know why every day is a gift." "You're on the mend. Easy does it. Our bodies are older and heal more slowly but your digestive system will be back on track." "Be glad and leave all your affairs in the Master's hands."

Amen. Thank God. Praise God.

Asuncion David Maramba is a retired professor, book editor and occasional journalist. Comments to marda@pinfo.com.ph; fax 8210659

THEY SAID

Unarticulated, unequaled love

"There will only be one thing in the world I will never accept—that you love me more than I love you—because my love, though unarticulated, for you will never be equaled."

—Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino in his last letter to wife, former President Corazon Aquino

Crime and punishment

"It is important not just to punish those who steal, but also to recover what they have stolen."

—President Macapagal-Arroyo on her administration's fight against corruption

Round and round

"The policy of assassination will bring only revenge and the continuation of the cycle of violence."

—Palestinian security chief Mohammed Dahlan on the series of strikes by Israel

Reverse terrorism

"Throwing out 60 Filipinos is not going to clean up America of any terrorism. This is blatant scapegoating."

—Poe Gratela of Migrante International on the scheduled deportation of Filipinos

Lifestyle check adhering strictly to due process

LETTERS

THANKS for your Aug. 24 editorial, which noted that the "lifestyle check is a new and useful addition to the government's anti-corruption drive."

Allow me to raise several points though:

1. **There is absolutely no trial by publicity.** There has been absolutely no instance of any government agency accusing in the press any official of having unexplained wealth. We cannot muzzle the media from reporting such charges when they are made, or refuse to cooperate with media in explaining the nature of such charges.

2. **Transparency Group head, Assistant Secretary Nick Conti, never said that 80 percent of the officials are millionaires, and therefore corrupt.**

Indeed, I found it surprising that your editorial was based on your paper's own article, which was the banner story on Aug. 21. No such article after all appeared anywhere else.

Your very enterprising reporter Juliet Labog-Javellana sought out the Transparency Group head, Assistant Secretary Nick Conti, for an interview. Juliet asked him for the statements of assets and liabilities (SALs) of customs and internal revenue officials, as well as of those in the public works department. As a firm believer in media, I authorized Assistant Secretary Nick Conti to do so. After all, RA No. 6713 requires public servants to annually file their SALs which are public documents. Contrary to your editorial, the TG did not "disclose a list of millionaire officials." Responding to Juliet's legitimate request, the TG simply provided her with a summary of the SALs the group has been compiling.

It was only matter-of-factly that Conti mentioned that a minority of the officials have net worth less than a million pesos. (By the way, the word "millionaire" is of American origin and obviously refers to the value of the dollar. Logically, a millionaire in the Philippine setting refers to somebody with a net worth of P54 million, roughly going by the exchange rate. I hope this puts to rest the editorial's long argument on "what the new standard for unexplained wealth should be.")

3. **Due process has and will be strictly adhered to in all unexplained-wealth probes.** The authorities in charge of the five recent cases had asked the accused to explain their side. Informed of a probe against him, one even lobbied through various channels to strike him off the list of those charged. I understand Juliet was able to acquire the case folders against the accused, each of which is at least two inches thick, complete with land and building registration documents, car registrations and similar documents. Corruption charges will be cleared with Department of Justice prosecutors.

I do hope the INQUIRER continues to be an activist, as it has been, in the anti-corruption drive.

—RIGOBERTO TIGLAO,
presidential chief of staff,
Office of the President,
Malacañang, Manila

HULRB should be on the side of buyers

IN A RECENTLY published report on problems in the real estate industry, a Commissioner Francisco L. Dagnalan of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB), apparently referring to HLURB rules for suspending licenses, is quoted as follows: "these (rules) are meant to protect both developers and buyers." He is said to have noted that "Just as there are unscrupulous developers, there are also unscrupulous buyers."

May I invite Mr. Dagnalan's attention to PD 957, the decree that regulates sale of subdivision lots, which states: "numerous reports reveal that many real estate subdivision owners, developers, operators, and/or sellers have reneged on their representations and obligations xxx. Reports of alarming magnitude also show cases of swindling and fraudulent manipulations perpetrated by unscrupulous subdivision and condominium sellers and operators, such as failure to deliver titles to the buyers xxx this state of affairs has rendered it imperative that the real estate subdivision and condominium businesses be closely supervised and regulated, and that penalties be imposed on fraudulent practices xxx."

A cursory reading of PD 957 reveals that reportorial, regulatory, administrative and penal sanctions are all directed at curbing fraudulent practices of developers, owners and sellers in the real estate business.

Nowhere in PD 957 is the buyer mentioned as unscrupulous; to the contrary, it is the seller. Quite clearly, the mandate of Dagnalan is to protect the buyers. The developers have their own batteries of lawyers who will use every legal means to enforce their rights.

If the animating spirit of PD 957 which is "the enhancement of the economic, social and moral condition of the Filipino people" by closely supervising and regulating the real estate subdivision business, is beyond the ken of Dagnalan, I'm afraid he does not deserve to sit at the HLURB a minute longer.

I challenge the Macapagal administration, Congress or whoever in government is minded to look after the interest of subdivision buyers: PD 957 provides adequate measures to protect the buyers' interest, if only the government will implement it.

The Macapagal administration can overhaul the HLURB. Or Congress can exercise oversight functions and make sure the HLURB does its job according to the spirit of PD 957.

—BUTCH L. JUNIA

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

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ELECTRIC SERVICE IN THESE AREAS WILL BE MOMENTARILY INTERRUPTED FOR FACILITIES UPGRADING AND OTHER LINE WORK.

MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

POSTED ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE

100 Years

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2003

BULACAN (BOCAUE)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT STA. MARIA 424YU

The whole of Intercity Industrial Estate in Bo Wakas

REASON: Cleaning, replacement and washing of contaminated line devices at Intercity Industrial Estate in Bo. Wakas, Bocaue, Bulacan.

TUESDAY TO WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2-3, 2003

MANILA (MALATE)

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (TUE., 09/02/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM (WED 09/03/03) - PORTIONS OF CIRCUIT TEGEN 57B

Portion of A. Mabini, San Andres, Roxas Blvd., M.H. Del Pilar Sts. including Aristocrat Restaurant and one-feed of Grand Boulevard Hotel.

Portion of Dr. A. Vasquez and Indiana from Gen Malvar to San Andres including portion of J. Nakpil Remedios, San Andres Sts. and Heritage Bldg.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (TUE., 09/02/03) AND 5:00AM (WED., 09/03/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS TEGEN 57B AND MALATE 23J

Portion of San Andres from Indiana to near A Mabini including portion of Adriatico, Carolina, Remedios Circle and Café Adriatico

REASON: Relocation of fallen poles along San Andres cor. M. Adriatico Sts. in Malate, Manila.

BULACAN (OBANDO AND MEYCAUAYAN), MALABON AND VALENZUELA CITY

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (TUE., 09/02/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:00AM AND 4:30AM (WED 09/03/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALABON 59YD

Along B. Flamengco (Panghulo) and Paliwas Roads from Rodriguez Ave. to and including Bgy. Taliptip, Bo. Apugan, Sitios Masana, Sulok, Sunog, Tinik in Meycauayan, Panghulo Subd., San Diego Subd., Ashtar Indl. Corp., Silver Swan, DPWH DZME, DZBB, Hi-Grain Agricom, Rio De Oro Canning in Bgy. Panghulo, Malabon; J. P. Rizal, S. Joaquin, Bilog, Hulo Quibadia Sts., DZXL, Sub-Miniature Enterprises, Christian Era Broadcasting, Aliw Broadcasting, Bgys. Pag-Asa, Paliwas, Hulo, San Pascual, Lawa and Paco in Obando.

Along F. Navarrete Ave. from B. Flamengco Road (Panghulo) to near Pinagkabalian Bridge including Dunhill Plastics, Yoshiko Industries and DZMM in Bgy. Panghulo, Obando, Bulacan.

Bos Wawang Pulo and Tawiran in Valenzuela City.

BETWEEN 11:30PM (TUE., 09/02/03) AND 4:30AM (WED., 09/03/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALABON 59YD

Along F. Navarette Ave. from near Panghulo Road to near M.H. Del Pilar St. in Bgy. Panghulo, Obando, Bulacan.

REASON: Replacement of rotten/leaning poles and line rehabilitation work along F. Navarette Ave. in Bgy. Panghulo, Obando, Bulacan.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2003

CALOOCAN CITY AND VALENZUELA CITY

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM - PORTIONS OF CIRCUIT KAYBIGA 44YX

Portion of Gen. Luis Ave. from Diamond St. to P. Dela Cruz St. including Philbag, Villa Maria-Kaybiga and Mangotok Subd.

Portion of Gen. Luis Ave. from Stonecraft Enterprises to Goodwill Metal including Honar Food and United Container in Kaybiga, Caloocan City.

Along Vista Verde-North Ave. from Gen. Luis Ave. to Llano Road including Vista Verde-North, Del Mundo Subd. and Vista Verde Subd. in Bagbaguin, Valenzuela City

Along Diamond Road from Gen. Luis Ave. to and including Golden Road and Caloocan Industrial Subd. in Kaybiga, Caloocan City.

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUITS KAYBIGA 44YX AND 45YX

Portion of Gen. Luis Ave. from A. Samonte St. to near Stonecraft Enterprise including Kaypack and La Starra Factory in Kaybiga, Caloocan City

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along Gen. Luis Ave. in Kaybiga, Caloocan City.

WEDNESDAY TO THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3-4, 2003

PASAY CITY

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (WED., 09/03/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM (THU., 09/04/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALATE 41J-PASAY 41U

Portion of Zamora from EDSA to Inocencio including portion of Vergel, Celeridad, Inocencio, Aurora, Protacio Ext., J. Luna, Ventanilla, 16 De Agosto, Tolentino Sts., Royal Chateau Townhomes, Liwayway Marketing Corp., Megapark and Max Steel in Protacio Ext

Portion of EDSA from M. Dela Cruz Ext. to Park Ave. including Saver's Square Plaza, Park Ave Mansions, one-feed of LRT substation #2 along Taft Ave. near Reymundo St., Masagana Citimall along Taft Ave. cor Libertad, portion of Park Ave., Ignacio, Figueroa, Sanchez and Villanueva Sts.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (WED., 09/03/03) AND 5:00AM (THU., 09/04/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS MALATE 41J-PASAY 41U AND 15J AND PASAY 27U

Portion of Taft Ave. and P. Burgos from near G. Puyat Ave. to Libertad including P. Dandan, Fernando, Rivera, G. Villanueva, Taylo, V. Noble, Villareal, Colayco, portion of Tramo, P. Zamora, Tengco, Decena Sts., Spring Commercial Complex, St. Mary's Academy and Southeastern College.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along P. Burgos near Taylo St. in Pasay City.

LAGUNA (CABUYAO)

BETWEEN 11:00PM (WED., 09/03/03) AND 4:30AM (THU., 09/04/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT BALIBAGO 43XV

Portion of National Hi-way from El Sol Memorial Park in Bgy. Niugan to near Mabitac Subd. including Creative Colors, Bgy. Sala, Piltel, Mena Oil Mill, Commercial Wheels Plating, Aliw Alexis Farms, Mercedez Village and St. Francis Homes VI

REASON: Upgrading of primary line protection facilites along National Hi-way in Bgys. Niugan and Sala, Cabuyao, Laguna.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2003

VALENZUELA CITY

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM - PORTIONS OF CIRCUIT BAGBAGUIN 414YZ

Along Lawang Bato Road from near G. Molina St. to near Jacinto St. including Fishing Gear and ITC Roads, Anson Indl. Corp., Asian Timber, Mercury Tinsmith Altamar Phils., Nettex Mfg., Phil. Fishing Gears, Asian Indl. Plastic Corp., Colvy Paper, Taipan Wood Indl. Corp., Filspin and Foremost Textile (Filtex) in Sitio Malinis, Bgy. Lawang Bato.

Along D. Bonifacio St. from near Lawang Bato Road to near North Diversion Road including Marlon Road, Trinidad St. (Asian Road), NEMA Mfg., Wicin Indl. Co., Mass Dynamic, Skyplas Indl. Corp., E.C. Sunrise Metal Industries and Majestic Plastic Indl. Co in East Canumay.

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT BAGBAGUIN 414YZ

Along Lawang Bato Road from D. Bonifacio St. to near Fishing Gear Road including Power Trends Steam Laundry and FAS Development Corp. in East Canumay.

REASON: Replacement of broken wood pole along D. Bonifacio St. in East Canumay, Valenzuela City.

THURSDAY TO FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4-5, 2003

LAGUNA (STA. ROSA)

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (THU., 09/04/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 3:30AM AND 4:00AM (FRI., 09/05/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT LIIP 43WM

Portion of LIIP Ave. and South Expressway from Meralco-LIIP substation to Balibago-Tagaytay Provincial Road.

Portion of Balibago Provincial Road from near Waltermart to near Harvard School of Laguna including Coca-Cola-Sta. Rosa Plant, Mercado Village in Bgy. Pulong Sta. Cruz.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (THU., 09/04/03) AND 4:00AM (FRI., 09/05/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT LIIP 43WM

Portion of Balibago-Tagaytay Provincial Road from near Harvard School of Laguna to and including Toyota Motor Parts, Daystar Sta. Rosa Ind'l Park, El Cielito Inn, Nissan Motors, Sun Logistics, Bermudez Resort, Piltel and SCI Transport in Bgy. Pulong Sta. Cruz

REASON: Relocation of facilities affected by Balibago-Tagaytay Provincial road widening in Bgy. Pulong Sta. Cruz, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

QUEZON CITY (CUBAO)

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (THU., 09/04/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:30AM AND 6:00AM (FRI., 09/05/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT CUBAO 42VQ

Portion of Aurora Blvd. from EDSA to Anonas Road including Act Theatre, Ocean Theatre, Sampaguita Theatre, Quezon Theatre, Bamboo House Restaurant, Aurora Towers, Manila COD Dept. Store, Toyota Motors-Cubao, TIP-Q.C., Q.C. Medical Center, portion of Gen. Roxas, Gen. Santos, Gen. Araneta, Gen. Aguinaldo, Gen. Malvar, Harvard, Stanford, Yale, Miami, Albany, Notre Dame, La Salle, Illinois, Pittsburgh Potsdam, Ermin Garcia and 20th Ave. in Cubao.

Portion of 15th Ave. from P. Tuazon to Aurora Blvd. including Velante Drive, Mirasol, Monterey, Trinity, Rochester and Princeton Sts.; Garden Grove Townhomes, Union Square Condominium, PLDT, Dalaya Executive Townhomes and Delta Motor Sales-Cubao.

Portion of Anonas Road from Aurora Blvd. to near Kamias Road including Anonas Comm'l Complex, McDonalds-Anonas, Pajo, Naranghita, Marang, Kubili, Chico, Bignay, Langka, Guyabano, Durian, Sineguelas Sts. and portion of K-6th to K-10th Sts. in Proj. 2

BETWEEN 11:00PM (THU., 09/04/03) AND 6:00AM (FRI., 09/05/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS CUBAO 42VQ AND 51VQ

Portion of Bgy. San Roque bounded by P. Tuazon Blvd., 14th Ave., Liberty Ave. and 20th Ave. including portion of 15th to 19th Aves., G. Del Pilar, Don Jose, P. Zamora, Dioquino, Main Ave., East Road, 1st to 6th, Camarilla Sts., Murphy Public Market, Prince John Condominium, General Hardware Products Cpd., Park Ave. Townhomes and Dioquino Cpd.

REASON: Relocation of 20kv lines to new concrete poles and retirement of old rotten pole along P. Tuazon St. in Cubao, Q.C.

MALABON CITY AND NAVOTAS CITY

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (THU., 09/04/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:00AM AND 4:30AM (FRI., 09/05/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALABON 53YD

Portion of Gen. Luna and C. Arellano Sts. from near P. Camos to near Gov. Pascual including H. Herrera, Jacinto, Burgos and Paez Sts. in Bgys. Ibaba and Concepcion, Malabon City.

Portion of M. Naval from near Los Martires St. in Bgy. San Jose to near Daang Hari Road including San Diego Fishery, Inland Shipyard, Frabelle Shipyard, AMRESCO, A. Ignacio and R. Baginda Sts. in Bgy. Daang Hari, Navotas City.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (THU., 09/04/03) AND 4:30AM (FRI., 09/05/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALABON 53YD

Portion of Gov. A. Pascual from Immaculate Garden Memorial Park in Bgy. San Jose to Bgy. Tangos including major portion of Bgy. Daang Hari, Tangos NHA Housing Project, Navotas Shipyard, Goleda Shipyard, David Sipyard, Leongson, Judge Roldan, Buenaventura and portion of M. Naval Sts., Navotas City.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along M. Naval, Daang Hari and Gov. Pascual, Navotas City.

SATURDAY TO SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6-7, 2003

BULACAN (MEYCAUAYAN)

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (SAT., 09/06/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 3:30AM AND 4:00AM (SUN., 09/07/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS MEYCAUAYAN 42YM AND 52YM

Portion of Iba-Camalig Road from Meralco-Meycauayan substation in Bgy. Camalig to near North Diversion Road in Bgy. Libtong including Meridan Indl. Cpd., Greenhills Wood Industry, La Pena Scala Saw Mill Inc., Banson Lumber and Emco Subd. in Bgy. Libtong; Ana Maria Subd., Board Master, Intl. Denim Coca-Cola-Meycauayan, Las Buenas Devt. and Muralla Indl. Park in Bgy. Iba.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (SAT., 09/06/03) AND 4:00AM (SUN., 09/07/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS MEYCAUAYAN 42YM AND 52YM

Portion of Iba-Camalig Road from near North Diversion Road to near Malhacan Road in Bgy. Libtong

REASON: Relocation of 115kv facilities affected by road widening project at Meycauayan Exit.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2003

PARAÑAQUE CITY

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 3:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT BF-PARAÑAQUE 45WU

Along Press Drive and Bodoni St. from near Dr. A. Santos Ave. (Sucat Road) to and including Industry St., 4th Estate Subd., Dreamland Village, Landcore Homes I and St. Martin Village in Bgy. San Antonio

REASON: Various line rehabilitation work and replacement of rotten/badly leaning poles along Press Drive and Bodoni St. in Bgy. San Antonio, Parañaque City.

ANTIPOLO CITY

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 6:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT TERESA 46XP; AND PORTION OF TERESA 45XP

The whole of Bgy. Tagbak including two-feeds of Solid Cement and portion of Bgy. Sukol, Antipolo City.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles and contaminated insulators along Tagbak Road.

MERALCO exerts all efforts to restore electric service as scheduled. However, there are instances when due to unavoidable circumstances, restoration may extend beyond the published schedule

For more information, please contact our CALL CENTER at telephone number 16211, fax nos. 1622-8556 and 1622-8554, or e-mail address callcenter.tech.assist@meralco.com.ph. For faster resolution of inquiries, please use the Bill ID Number or Service Identification Number (SIN) indicated in your electric bills.

For those who prefer to receive this schedule via e-mail, please write us at callcenter tech assist@meralco.com.ph and type in the phrase "Request for weekly schedule"

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War and betrayal

LAWYER Soliman Santos' insights in his "Reflections on the Magdalo mutiny" (PDI, 7/13/03) were valid. The Magdalo group laments the sellout of military officials to the enemy camp, but what they do not question is the premise of going to war in the first place. That should be foremost among their grievances because war, in any perspective, is not moral, is not humane and is not sane. On such precept our government, particularly our past and present commanders in chief, should be answerable for the "all-out war" campaigns instigated against those considered to be the enemies of the state—the communist and separatist fronts.

The battle against the insurgents has been going on for decades now and yet did it achieve a thing? We have suffered losses instead of gaining ground in the move toward peace. We have lost lives, money and opportunities for development not only in the localities where the battle is being waged but also in the entire national arena.

We should give the peace negotiations another try. And, fortunately, it seems it is not too late for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to prove her merit as there will be a resumption of that promising, albeit tedious, path toward a long-lasting peace. As the great Sun Tzu stated: "To win a hundred victories in a hundred battles is not the hallmark of skill. The acme of skill is to subdue the enemy without even fighting."

—ABIGAIL V. FLORES, San Juan
Baño, Arayat, Pampanga

We can be living heroes

IS it only by someone's death that his greatness is measured? Or is the death of someone the only time we begin to realize we have produced a man of substance? There is Jose Rizal, and to the list of great Filipinos is now added the name of Ninoy Aquino.

I am of the opinion that the world would be a better place to live in if we gave someone the recognition due him or her for doing a noble deed to his fellowmen, during his or her lifetime instead of after his death. We say that if we do a good turn every day we become heroes. Why not be a living hero by rendering a good turn daily to our fellowmen? In this way, we drive a subtle message for everyone to give a good example for friends and neighbors to imitate and emulate.

We should now stop to equate man's good deeds with monetary contributions. Money, for all its usefulness to mankind, is not enough to reward commendable and voluntary service and sacrifice.

We are a confused and battered nation because all we hear, see and experience daily are sins of humanity against humanity. Let us overcome violence of all forms, conspiracy and deceptions by doing something good and wholesome every day. This way we shall become a transformed nation of living heroes.

—J. RENATO LEVISTE,
171 Fallarme St.,
San Vicente East,
City of Calapan,
Oriental Mindoro

Jose Pidal a test of administration's sincerity

WE welcome President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's statement encouraging government officials and employees to maintain "modest lives." Amid charges of rampant graft and corruption in her administration, statements like these are most encouraging to a people tired of government corruption.

It remains to be seen, however, whether the statement is an attempt to defuse the Jose Pidal brouhaha or an honest effort by the President to rid government of corrupt officials. We remember President Macapagal's previous statements some months ago, when her husband was also the subject of attacks, submitting her entire official family to a lifestyle check. Nothing came out of this except some reports about customs and internal revenue officials being charged in court. We are not that optimistic that the people will ever get justice against these corrupt men. The courts are not the proper venue to dissuade grafters off their illegal ways.

To show statesmanship, President Macapagal must allow government and the opposition to scrutinize the dealings of her husband. If Mr. Arroyo is guilty, then allow the wheels of justice to run full course. This will definitely convince the public of her sincerity and will even place her in the pantheon of modern heroes.

—RICHARD RIVERA,
spokesperson,
Bagong Tao Movement, Unit 402
Xavierville Square Condo,
38 Xavierville Avenue,
Loyola Heights, Quezon City

PMA also produces outstanding leaders

THE PHILIPPINE Military Academy (PMA) will celebrate its foundation day in September.

It is so unfortunate that the PMA is being blamed for producing mutineers. Not only is its credibility being questioned but also its integrity and loyalty as an institution. It is so unfair to the institution. Founded in 1905, it is an old, prestigious school which has produced outstanding graduates and government leaders. Many of them gave their lives to defend our country and people. The graduates of the PMA receive the highest level of education and training. The PMA trains cadets to be good leaders and mold their character to become truly professional soldiers.

—REBECCA A. FLORENTO, Camia
Avenue, Sta. Quiteria Village,
Caloocan City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

North Korea keeps tough stance in talks

MOSCOW—North Korea warned Wednesday in the first day of crucial talks on the nuclear standoff with the United States that it would build a more powerful deterrent unless Washington issued a formal security guarantee, Russian officials said.

Maintaining a tough stance, North Korean negotiators added they would keep UN inspectors —kicked out of the hermetic Stalinist state in December— from checking on their country's nuclear program until such assurances are delivered, Russia's chief envoy told Moscow news agencies.

Describing the ongoing negotiations as "fairly fragile," Foreign Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Losyukov told the ITAR-TASS news agency that North Korea "will not allow any inspections until it is assured that the US threat has been neutralized."

Russia is acting as mediator between Pyongyang and Washington in its nuclear standoff for the first time in the six-nation negotiations that also involve China, South Korea and Japan.

Russia has defended North Korea for months against what it views as a more aggressive stance from the United States, and much of the information from the first day of talks ending Friday in Beijing is coming from Russian sources.

One Russian diplomat told ITAR-TASS —the only foreign media allowed to work in Pyongyang along with China's Xinhua news agency —that North Korea in its opening speech warned it will develop a more powerful deterrent if its demands are not met by the United States.

The same Russian source said North Korea dismissed US claims that it was already in possession of nuclear weapons—but did not hide the fact that it had a nuclear capability in the works.

Pyongyang "has no nuclear weapons... and has no goals of developing them," the Russian source quoted chief North Korean negotiator Kim Yong-Il as saying at the start of the talks.

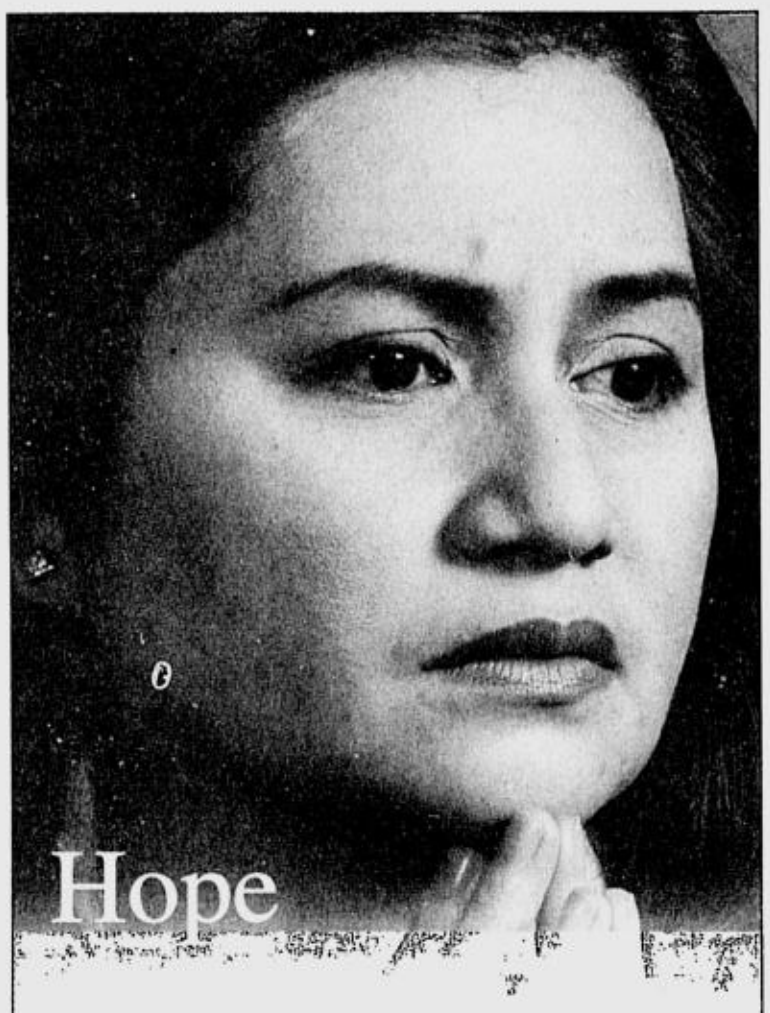
But if Washington fails to take Pyongyang's security concerns into account, Kim warned North Korea "will create even more powerful ways of containing" the threat from the United States, according to the source quoted by ITAR-TASS.

In a sign of how tense and often confused the negotiations are, top South Korean and Japanese officials denied that North Korea claimed it had no nuclear weapons after ITAR-TASS came out with its report.

"I do not think I heard that," said Wi Sung-Lac, director general of North American affairs at the South Korean foreign ministry.

The United States believes North Korea has already developed two nuclear weapons, and may develop up to six more warheads within the coming months.

Losyukov told ITAR-TASS that both North Korea and the United States set conditions at the start of the talks that are blocking progress in negotiations over the nuclear standoff. *AFP*



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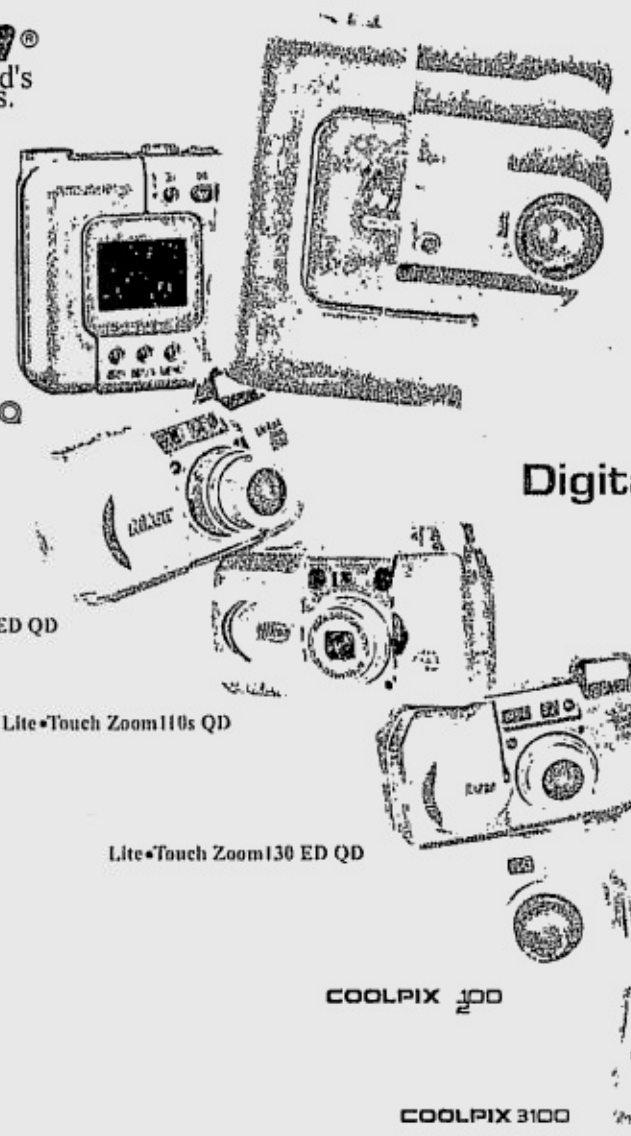

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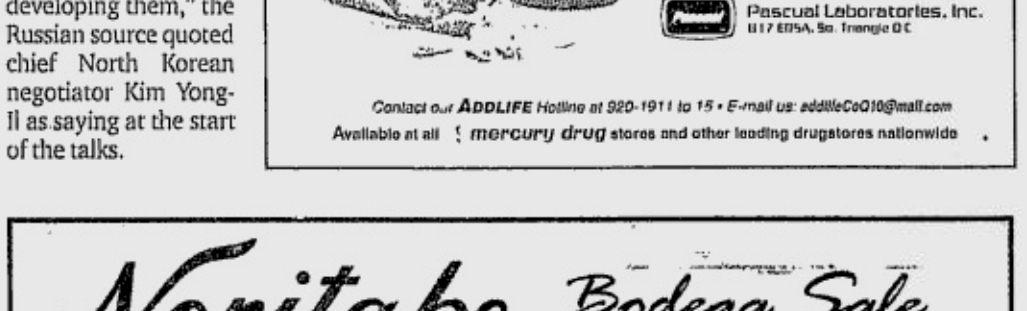

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HINDU holymen rushing for an auspicious bath at the Kumbh Mela in Nashik, Aug. 27. REUTERS

45 killed in stampede at India Hindu festival

NASHIK, India—At least 45 people were killed Wednesday in a stampede by Hindu worshippers rushing to one of western India's holiest rivers for a sacred bath not held in more than 100 years, doctors said.

Several witnesses said the victims were trampled to death when pilgrims broke down a barricade blocking their way to the Godavari River on a narrow street in Nashik, 187 km north of Bombay.

"The current death toll is 45 and more than 70 people are injured. Among the injured, a couple are in serious condition," Saroja Savi, who is in charge of the casualty room at Nashik's Civil Hospital, said.

Savi said 26 of the dead were women, many of whom suffocated from being crushed under the toppled barricade.

Millions of Hindus participate in the six-week Kumbh Mela, or Nectar Pot Fair, which takes place every three years rotating through four parts of India.

But Wednesday's dip into the holy river has not taken place since the 19th century and authorities had braced for more than 2.5 million Hindu priests and devotees to make their way into the water Wednesday and Thursday.

Rampol Mena, a 27-year-old laborer from the central Indian city Bhopal, said he and his mother were among a crowd of 10,000 worshippers singing and dancing as they trekked down the narrow streets when he felt pushing from the back.

"Suddenly I saw people falling down in front of me. I immediately shielded my mother but suddenly we tripped into the pile," Mena said.

"I was there for more than 20 minutes and people started walking all over me. When the police finally pulled us out all I could hear were loud wails."

One of Mena's arms was broken at four places but his mother escaped unscathed except for slight foot injuries.

Jit Bahadur Singh was not so lucky. He said he lost his wife and three other female relatives.

"We were coming back from our bath and suddenly a large number of people came on the exact same road from the opposite side," Singh said.

"In minutes there was pushing and we fell over. I saw at least four people on top of one another and still others going on top of them trying to take their bath," Singh said.

Stretchers kept arriving at Nashik's hospital hours after the tragedy, as distraught relatives and volunteers wheeled in the badly mangled bodies.

The pilgrims were trying to reach a small sacred riverbank known as Ram Kund for a bath reputed to cleanse all sins.

According to legend, the spot is where the Hindu warrior god Ram, accompanied by his wife Sita and brother Laxman, spent his years in the jungles after being forced into exile by his father.

While most witnesses said the stampede was caused by impatient pilgrims, P.T. Lohar, police commissioner in this city of 800,000 people, said chaos seemed to have broken out in a mad scramble by pilgrims to collect coins either thrown or dropped by holy men fresh from their bath. *AFP*

Ex-worker kills 6 at Chicago car parts warehouse

CHICAGO—A fired worker hunted down and shot to death six employees of an auto parts supply warehouse on Wednesday, then refused to surrender and was killed by police, authorities said.

"From the scene, it appears he went throughout the supply warehouse shooting them," acting Chicago Police Supt. Philip Cline said. "They all suffered fatal gunshot wounds."

The gunman, identified by authorities as 36-year-old Salvador Tapia, had been fired six months ago for poor performance at Windy City Core Supply Inc., and recently made threatening telephone calls to one of the owners.

"According to management, he was fired six months ago for being a poor employee—late, not showing up at work, causing trouble at work," Cline said. The phone calls were not reported to police.

When officers arrived Wednesday morning in answer to a call of shots fired, an employee with his hands tied behind his back, who had escaped, told them Tapia was inside and had shot several employees. Another worker who was caught in rush hour traffic also escaped the carnage.

Tapia may have arrived before some employees, then fired at arriving officers in two separate confrontations outside.

A team of heavily armed officers then stormed the warehouse—which Cline described as a thicket of barrels, containers and auto engines—and found Tapia hiding. He refused to put down his weapon, a Walther PP .380 pistol, and was killed by an officer, Cline said.

Police searched the warehouse for hours afterward, looking for any additional victims amid the maze of auto parts.

Tapia had been arrested a dozen times in the past 14 years on various charges, including illegal possession of a weapon, domestic battery and assault. He was convicted in 1989 of illegal possession of a gun and received a year's probation.

"The problem here is easy access to a firearm," Cline said.

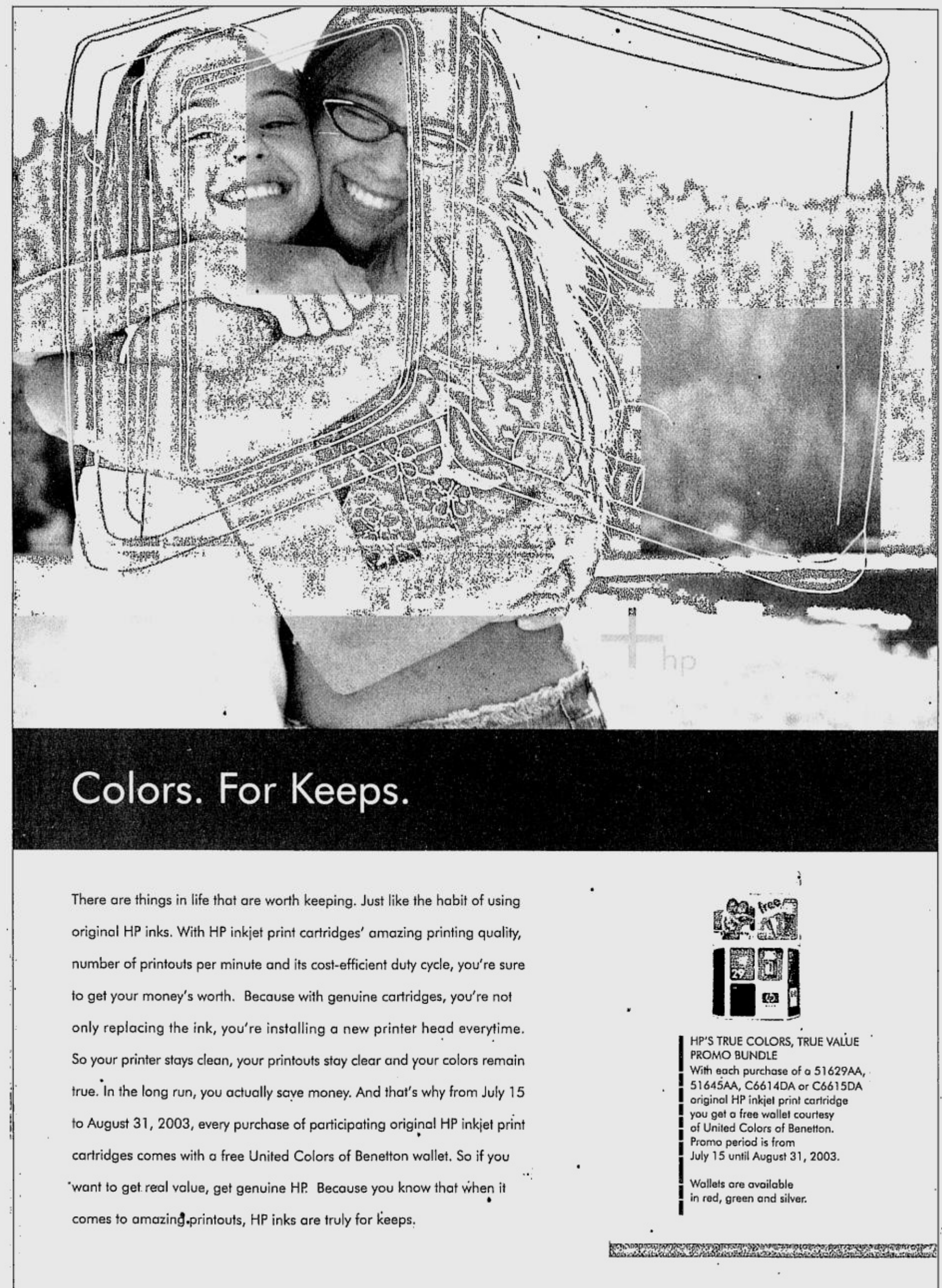
"I mean here's someone who never should have had a gun, that had a gun, and its tragic results from it."

Chicago, which has one of the nation's highest murder rates, has been in the forefront of US cities suing gun manufacturers, distributors and retailers. Mayor Richard Daley frequently rails against the influx of weapons into the city that bans their sale inside its borders.

Last week in Ohio, an automotive supply plant worker killed one co-worker and wounded two others before killing himself.

Other workplace shootings in recent years include the July 1999 slayings of nine people at two Atlanta brokerage offices by a stock trader, who earlier killed his wife and two children. In December, a copier repairman shot to death seven people at a Xerox Corp. facility in Honolulu.

In February 2001, a former worker at a suburban Chicago Navistar factory who was about to start a prison term returned to the plant and opened fire, killing four and then himself. *Reuters*



2 US soldiers killed in Iraq attacks

PFC. JESSICA Lynch, the badly injured US Army private and prisoner of war who was retrieved from an Iraqi hospital by American commandos, has been discharged from the military, the Army said on Aug. 27. REUTERS

BAGHDAD—Two US soldiers were killed in separate attacks in Iraq on Wednesday, as President George W. Bush vowed America would not retreat from the country in the face of a guerrilla insurgency and terror attacks.

Central Command said one soldier was killed and three were wounded in a blast in the town of Falluja, a hotbed of guerrilla violence west of Baghdad. Witnesses said a US convoy had driven over land mines planted on a road.

In Baghdad, one soldier was killed and two were wounded in an attack on a convoy, the US military said.

The deaths brought to 64 the number of US soldiers killed in action, according to the latest Pentagon figures, since Bush declared major combat over on May 1.

The total number of US soldiers who have died in Iraq since the start of May now exceeds the number who lost their lives during the invasion and occupation in March and April.

But Bush says efforts to secure Iraq will continue.

"Retreat in the face of terror would only invite further and bolder attacks. There will be no retreat," he said on Tuesday.

Washington blames supporters of ousted leader Saddam Hussein and foreign Muslim militants for the attacks; and says Saddam loyalists and groups linked to al-Qaida are the prime suspects for last week's bomb attack on the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, which killed at least 23 people.

To share the burden, the United States and Britain intend to explore a UN resolution next week that would encourage nations to send troops, police trainers and money to the reconstruction of Iraq, diplomats at the United Nations said on Wednesday.

One diplomat said there was a push to get something adopted before the mid-September annual General Assembly while Britain was still president of the 15-member Security Council.

But failing that, a resolution may look doubtful for the 150,000-strong US military to get help. At the moment about 21,000 other troops are in Iraq, 11,000 of them British.

Troops from the US 4th Infantry Division, based in Saddam's hometown of Tikrit, have launched an operation to root out resistance in hostile Sunni Muslim territory to the north of Baghdad. Officers say Operation Ivy Needle will deprive Saddam and his top lieutenants of places to hide.

"That is our goal. After this, it is going to be difficult for him to hide, for his support network to operate properly," spokesperson Major Josslyn Aberle said in Tikrit.

Last week, Washington announced the capture of two of Saddam's most senior aides—"Chemical Ali" Hassan al-Majid and former Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan.

The operation began in earnest on Tuesday when 24 suspected members of a criminal gang accused of attacking US forces were arrested by the 4th Infantry Division.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, soldiers, backed by tanks and helicopters, mounted scores of raids across three provinces north of Baghdad, detaining a further 27 people.

The United States says it wants to hand over power to an Iraqi government after democratic elections expected next year.

Ramiro Lopes da Silva, appointed head of the UN mission in Iraq following the death of envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello in last week's bombing, said the attack on the world body would slow reconstruction and thereby prolong the occupation.

"(I hope) that the groups that perpetrate this kind of action understand that the goals they claim to pursue of a free, independent, sovereign Iraq have been delayed by their action, not accelerated," Lopes da Silva said in an interview. *Reuters*

Nasa seeks new mission after shuttle tragedy

WASHINGTON—One day after the release of a scathing report on the shuttle Columbia disaster, Nasa's chief agreed with one fundamental criticism: the US space agency lacks an urgent mission in the post-Cold War world.

Nasa Administrator Sean O'Keefe said on Wednesday there was no motivation for his agency now comparable to the superpower competition for space that pushed Nasa in its early years.

There is "nothing comparable to what drove us as a nation with the threat of the prospect of thermonuclear war by a bipolar opponent on the other side of this globe that existed in the early 1960s," O'Keefe told a news conference.

O'KEEFE

"No, we don't have anything nearly as Earth-shattering as that. Thank God."

O'Keefe said he was accountable for the Columbia accident, in which a chunk of falling foam insulation damaged the shuttle's left wing, setting in motion a chain of events that ultimately tore the ship apart over Texas on Feb. 1. All seven astronauts were killed.

The independent Columbia Accident Investigation Board reported on Tuesday that Nasa's complacent attitude toward safety, its refusal to address engineers' concerns about the foam strike and its overall management and culture were to blame in the accident.

In exploring the historical roots of these problems, the investigators wrote, "The end of the Cold War in the late 1980s meant that the most important political underpinning of NASA's human space flight program—US-Soviet space competition—was lost, with no equally strong political objective to replace it."

They also noted that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's budget was cut by 40 percent over the past decade, but instead of cutting back, Nasa pushed forward with a costly International Space Station whose construction depended on the heavy-lift capabilities of the shuttle fleet.

"The report covers hardware failures to be sure, but it also covers human failures, and how our culture needs change to mitigate succumbing to these failings again," O'Keefe said. "We get it." *Reuters*

Knifer to hang for killing 8 Japanese kids

TOKYO—A man was sentenced to death on Thursday for stabbing and killing eight children in a Japanese elementary school in a rampage that shocked the nation.

The attack on the school in western Japan two years ago was unprecedented in scale and severely shook the national sense of security, already battered by a series of senseless crimes.

Mamoru Takuma, 39, who had previously received treatment for mental illness, pleaded guilty to the killings and to injuring 13 other children and two teachers at Ikeda elementary school near Osaka.

Seven girls and a boy between the ages of 6 and 8 were killed by Takuma in June 2001 when he burst into their classroom and started slashing at random with a long knife.

Indicted on charges of murder and attempted murder, Takuma told an early court hearing he wanted to pay for the crime with his life.

Told by the judge to stand for sentencing on Thursday, Takuma burst out: "I have something to say. Since I'll get the death penalty anyway, let me speak one last time. I've been quiet up to now," NHK national television said.

But the judge ordered him removed from the courtroom, and he was not present when sentence was passed.

Takuma's lawyers had earlier requested permission for him to speak during the hearing in order to prevent such outbursts, the Nihon Keizai newspaper said. *Reuters*

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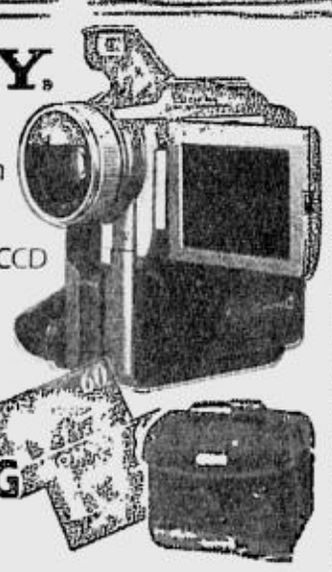

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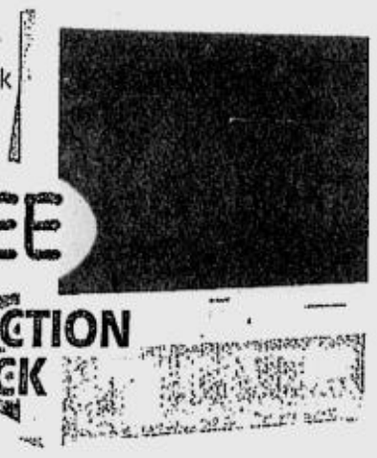

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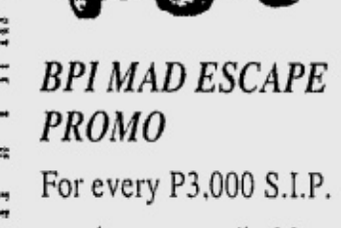

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2 types of enriched nuke material found in Iran

VIENNA—A confidential UN report says inspectors found two different types of highly enriched nuclear particles at facilities in Iran that are not needed in civilian atomic programs, a Western diplomat said Wednesday.

"The discovery of enriched uranium is particularly worrying. IAEA inspectors found two different types of highly enriched particles. You do not need that to make nuclear power," the diplomat said.

The findings are contained in a report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that was handed to the UN nuclear watchdog's board of governors here Tuesday ahead of a crucial meeting on Iran.

The diplomat said the report poses questions that "all speak to the purpose of Iran's nuclear program" and shows "a pattern of non-compliance" with the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

It includes revelations that Iran "has admitted that it tried to import centrifuge material" and that it started a heavy water program in the 1980s.

Heavy water is used for reactors that produce plutonium, a material which can be used to make nuclear weapons.

Tehran insists that its nuclear program is intended purely to help meet its energy needs but the United States charges that it is secretly trying to develop nuclear arms.

IAEA Secretary General Mohamed ElBaradei this week confirmed that enriched uranium was found at Natanz, 290 km south of Tehran, where Iran is building a uranium processing plant.

Diplomats said this week that the report, which ElBaradei will formally present to the board of governors when they start meeting here on Sept. 8, gives no clear verdict on the nature of Tehran's nuclear program.

But one told AFP "there will clearly be some sort of resolution on Iran from the board," which can refer the matter to the UN Security Council.

In June, an initial IAEA report found that Tehran had not fully respected the Non-Proliferation Treaty by failing to inform the IAEA of some of its nuclear activities, including importing uranium in 1991.

In Tehran the Iranian permanent representative to the IAEA said on television the new report on nuclear activities in Iran was much softer in tone than its predecessor.

"The report was much less severe than the previous one," said Ali Salehi: "Nowhere is there any mention of negligence or omissions by Iran." *AFP*

Islamic court to rule shortly on stoning case

KATSINA, Nigeria—A Nigerian Islamic court said Wednesday it would pass judgment in the case of Amina Lawal, a single mother who has been sentenced to be stoned to death for adultery, in four weeks time.

Lawal, a 31-year-old village housewife, will learn next month whether her appeal has been successful or whether she could still become the first Nigerian to be stoned since the return of Sharia law.

"The court has heard both sides in this case and hereby adjourns until Sept. 25 for judgment," said trial judge, Grand Khadi Aminu Ibrahim, the highest Islamic legal authority in Lawal's home state, Katsina.

Earlier the Katsina Sharia Appeal Court had heard Lawal's defense team argue that her first trial and her first, failed appeal had been unfair.

As Lawal and her baby Wasila left the court to return with family members to her home village of Kurami, her lawyer and friend Hauwa Ibrahim was confident that her life would be saved.

"We are very hopeful that we are going to win," she said after the hearing, noting that the judges had extended the court's normal sitting hours to allow Lawal's appeal hearing to finish in good time.

And the chief prosecutor, Nurulhuda Mahmud, appeared to be preparing the ground for his possible defeat at next month's hearing.

"Our prayer to this court is to accept our explanation... and order that the sentence be upheld. However, Sharia is not bent on passing death sentences," he told reporters after the hearing.

"If this court finds any doubt in the proceedings that should be enough to save Amina from execution," he said.

Under Sharia, a person who has sex outside of marriage can be found guilty of adultery, and thus face death.

Last year Lawal was denounced by fellow villagers in the Katsina farming community of Kurami after she gave birth to Wasila more than two years after splitting from her husband.

She was convicted in March last year and lost her first appeal in August, instantly becoming an international cause celebre.

Her photo made front pages worldwide and her case inspired e-mail campaigns, candle-lit vigils and protests against the alleged brutality of what many regard as Sharia's archaic and harsh punishments.

But defense counsel Aliyu Musa Yawuri has opted to challenge her conviction under the terms of Sharia, not to fight the controversial legal system itself.

He argued that the village court which convicted her had not properly explained the offense nor its consequences before her alleged confession.

He also said that the baby had been conceived before Sharia law formally came into force in Katsina State.

Lawal gave birth on Jan. 6 of last year, more than two years after her divorce but only six-and-a-half months after Katsina formally reinstituted Sharia.

The prosecutor contested this argument, saying that although Sharia was incorporated into state law on June 20, 2002, an interim declaration of the law had been made in August 2000.

The defense also argued that, under Islamic law, the pregnancy could have been the result of a so-called "sleeping embryo."

"Amina gave birth within two years of divorce, so the presumption is that the child belongs to her former husband," Yawuri said, arguing that Sharia holds that an embryo can lie dormant for up to five years. *AFP*

AMINA Lawal and her 20-month-old child Wasila enter the Katsina State Judiciary Sharia Court of Appeal Headquarters in Katsina, Nigeria, Aug. 27. Lawal has been found guilty of adultery as evidenced by the existence of Wasila, and sentenced to death by stoning and is now appealing. AFP

Poor nations to get cheaper drugs in deal

GENEVA—The United States and a key group of developing countries struck a deal Wednesday on how to give poor states access to cheaper medicines, potentially ending a dispute undermining free trade talks, a top envoy said.

Allowing poorer states that are unable to manufacture medicines to import cheap generic drugs is seen as vital to beating major killers such as AIDS and malaria. But it also means setting aside patent laws protecting multinational companies.

The agreement was reached by the United States, which has a powerful pharmaceutical industry, generic drug producers Brazil and India and African representatives South Africa and Kenya.

Although not a formal group, they are seen as representing all sides in the argument.

"The five are agreed," the chief mediator on the drugs issue, Singapore's ambassador Vanu Gopala Menon, told journalists.

A formal verdict on the deal by the full World Trade Organization membership of 146 states was not expected before Thursday to give time to delegations to inform their governments.

But initial reaction from other envoys at the Geneva trade body, where all decisions are taken by consensus, was clearly positive, trade diplomats said.

"It looks like it is in the bag," said Norway's ambassador Kare Bryn on leaving a meeting at which the text was being presented to all delegates for the first time.

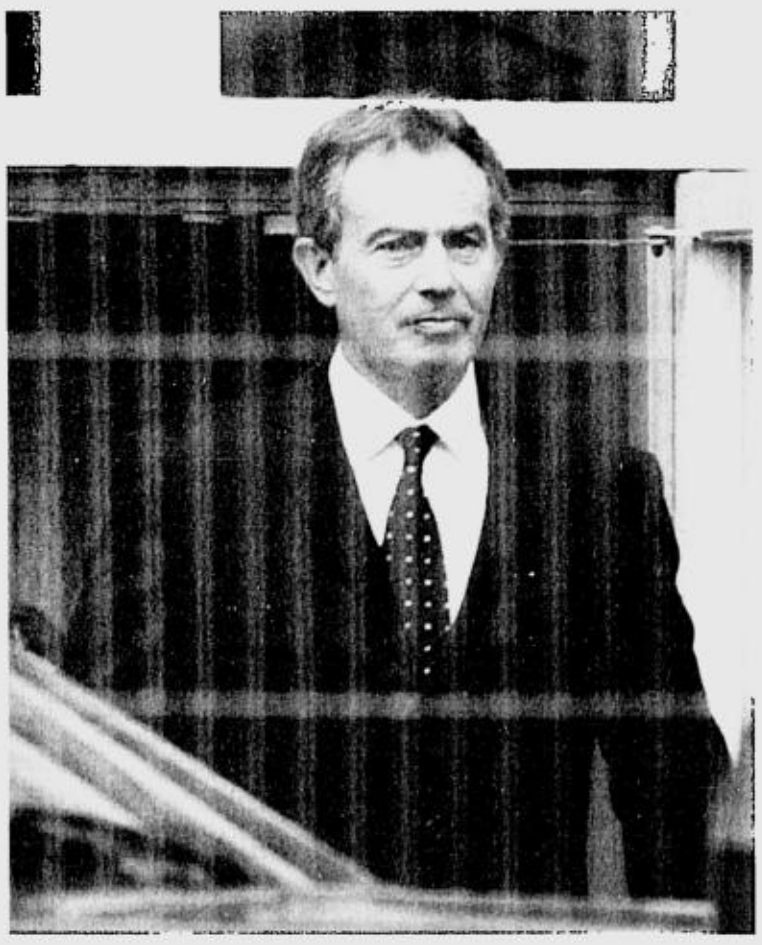
The United States blocked a deal on cheap drugs drafted at the end of last year even though it was backed by all other WTO members.

US drug makers feared the agreement could let generic companies in developing countries, such as Brazil and India, start copying nonessential drugs like Viagra, the anti-impotence pill.

Under the new proposals WTO states would pledge not to abuse the system and only waive patents to import generic medicines "in good faith," not for commercial gain.

All "reasonable" steps would be taken to ensure drugs and drug ingredients sold to poor countries did not turn up on rich country's markets.

A number of richer developing countries were also set to declare they would only use the system in dire health emergencies. *Reuters*



BLAIR leaving his official residence at Downing Street for the Royal Courts of Justice to give evidence to the Hutton Inquiry into the death of government weapons expert Dr. David Kelly, Aug. 28. REUTERS

Blair: I would have had to resign if my gov't distorted Iraq dossier

LONDON—Prime Minister Tony Blair said Thursday he would have had to resign if there had been any truth in a media report claiming that his government distorted information about Iraqi weapons.

Blair said the British Broadcasting Corp. report that his office had exaggerated estimations of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction was not true and that it questioned his credibility.

"It was an extraordinary allegation to make and an extremely serious one," he told an inquiry into the death of a government weapons expert, who was caught up in a political storm over the government's Iraq policy.

"This was an absolutely fundamental charge . . . this was an allegation that we had behaved in a way that, were it true . . . would have warranted my resignation," he added.

Blair said a contentious government dossier on Iraq's arsenal was based on intelligence sources and was not manipulated for political reasons.

"At that stage (in September), the strategy was not to use the dossier as the immediate reason for going to conflict, but as the reason why we had to return to the issue of Saddam's weapons of mass destruction," he said.

Looking calm, Blair told the inquiry that a claim in the dossier that Iraq could deploy weapons of mass destruction within 45 minutes came from British intelligence, and was not inserted at the insistence of his office.

"I also knew it had to be a document that was owned by the Joint Intelligence Committee and its chair John Scarlett . . . We could not produce this as evidence that came from anything other than an objective source," he said.

Blair was giving testimony before an inquiry on why arms expert David Kelly, 59, apparently committed suicide after being identified as the likely source of the BBC report that the government exaggerated the threat of Iraqi weapons to win support for military action.

Blair has vigorously denied misleading lawmakers or the public in the run-up to war. The BBC report sparked a bitter dispute between the public broadcaster and the government, with the credibility of both at stake.

Dozens of anti-war protesters jeered Blair as he arrived Thursday at the Royal Courts of Justice in central London. Scores of people had lined up outside the building for a chance to hear Blair give evidence before the inquiry, headed by senior appeals judge Lord Hutton.

The Hutton inquiry is trying to determine how the government came to expose Kelly—a move that placed him under intense media pressure and led him to give testimony before two parliamentary committees. On July 18, three days after he testified, police found Kelly's body with his left wrist slashed. *AP*

Ex-WorldCom execs charged with fraud

WASHINGTON—Oklahoma state officials filed criminal fraud charges Wednesday against former WorldCom chief executive Bernie Ebbers and five other top executives of the failed telecom giant.

It was the first time Ebbers has faced charges in the largest fraud in US corporate history, although some other executives have been hit with federal charges in the probe into WorldCom, which has been renamed MCI.

The move by Oklahoma led to friction between state and federal officials, who are pursuing their own investigation.

"We are disappointed that we were not told that charges were imminent," the US Attorney's Office in the Southern District of New York said in a statement.

"Competing interests can impede and delay the administration of justice. We are hopeful Oklahoma's action will not interfere with the prosecution of five individuals already charged."

But the new charges appeared to stem from frustration over Ebbers' ability to avoid prosecution so far.

Oklahoma Attorney General Drew Edmondson said the charges name Ebbers, former chief financial officer Scott Sullivan, controller David Myers, general accounting director Buford Yates, management accounting chief Betty Vinson and legal accounting director Troy Normand.

The six were each charged with 15 counts of violating the Oklahoma Securities Act.

"We allege the company and these six employees executed a scheme to artificially inflate the value of WorldCom stock and bonds by intentionally falsifying information filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission," Edmondson said. *AFP*

Ten Commandments monument hauled out of public view

MONTGOMERY, Alabama—Demonstrators prayed and promised a legal challenge Wednesday as authorities dragged a controversial 2.5 ton religious monument out of public view at the state court building here.

The granite tribute to the Ten Commandments caused a controversy in the conservative state of Alabama over the separation of state from religion.

But workmen lifted onto palettes on rollers and pushed it away, sparking screams of protest from demonstrators in the grounds of the state Judicial Building.

The state's chief justice, Roy Moore, who arranged the erection of the monument, was suspended last week after he fought federal court orders to have it removed. He intended it to be a symbol of the Judeo-Christian foundation of US law.

"We have lost the battle but not the war," said a determined Rev. Rob Schenck, one of the organizers of the protests and president of the Washington-based National Clergy Council.

About two dozen people, many propped up against columns in front of the court building, prayed and read extracts from the bible as the workers pulled the monument to another location in the building to be stored in two separate pieces.

In the revival-like atmosphere, many of the demonstrators said they were sad, but hopeful in their latest battle in the fight for Alabama's traditional values.

Schenck promised activists would approach lawmakers state by state to support legislation to permit Ten Commandments displays in public places. The idea is called "the Ten Commandments Dissent Act," he said.

President George W. Bush is a devout Methodist, but the White House has strived to stay out of the dispute. White House spokesperson Claire Buchan said only: "It is important that we respect our laws and our courts.

"In some instances, the courts have ruled that the posting of the Ten Commandments is okay. In other circumstances, they've ruled that it's not okay. In either case, there's always opportunity for appeal of the court's decisions. But we believe that it's important to respect the laws in the courts." *AFP*

WORKERS moving the Ten Commandments monument from the rotunda of the State Judicial building Aug. 27 in Montgomery, Alabama. AFP

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SOUTHERN MINDANAO STUDY

Sexual abuses of young offenders bared

DAVAO CITY—More than half of every 10 juvenile delinquents in Southern Mindanao suffer from sexual advances and psychological harm while in the custody of government authorities, a study showed.

The study, conducted from April to December 2002 by the Save the Children Foundation, said most of those abused while in custody were females.

Mae Fe Templa, project consultant of the CICL (Children in Conflict with the Law) Davao Research, said during Monday's presentation of the study results that the offenders included "barangay and police authorities."

"Few of the boys interviewed have had experiences of sexual harassment and abuses in police stations and or perpetrated by police authorities," Templa said.

The eight-month study, which was conducted in the cities of Davao and Tagum and in the towns of Dujali in Davao del Norte and Nabunturan in Compostela Valley, covered 66 CICL, parents and barangay leaders, municipal and barangay officials, police officers, prosecutor, judges and court personnel and private and public lawyers, jail wardens, government social workers and child rights advocates.

According to Templa, the study revealed that the process children go through under the prevailing justice system, which was punitive.

She said the study also showed there was need for a separate justice system for juvenile delinquents. "And unless a comprehensive and distinct justice system is installed for children, continuing violations of child's rights occur," Templa said.

The Davao study, which is one of the three researches commissioned by the Save the Children Philippine Office, also revealed a process that exposes the children to vulnerabilities from barangay to correction or rehabilitation centers.

She said the study told of abuses committed against the children below 18 years old, who were accused of committing or have committed criminal offenses, mostly for violation of the curfew hour, crime against property, and rugby use.

Based on the results of the study, Templa said, most of the children were males aged from 11 to 15 years old. Most of them are elementary graduates and belonged to irregular, low-income and large families.

Templa said the Davao study also illustrated an increasing number of children involved in petty crimes and offenses punishable under the Revised Penal Code, special laws and ordinances.

She said the problems of the children reflected the government's non-conformity with the standards set by international instruments, like the Beijing Rules and Riyadh Guidelines on the prevention and protection of juveniles deprived of liberty.

"This is a reality where there is no law in the country that provides for a comprehensive juvenile justice system," Templa said.

She added that the "traditional views and attitudes of society" had aggravated the matter.

PDI Mindanao Bureau

Man gets 20-yr prison term for illegal lumber

By Carla P. Gomez, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

BACOLOD CITY—For illegally possessing over P60,000 worth of timber, a 50-year-old man was sentenced by the Regional Trial Court in Negros Occidental on Tuesday to serve from 10 to 20 years in prison.

Judge Henry Arles of the Regional Trial Court of Kabankalan found Delfin Dionzon Jr. guilty of illegal possession of timber worth P61,236 under the Forestry Code of the Philippines.

Arles also ordered that the lumber be confiscated in favor of the government and that Dionzon be immediately transferred to the national penitentiary.

Forester II Wilson Pantano told the court that on July 24, 1993 that the Kabankalan police informed him of the presence of lumber flitches in one of the barangays in the city. When he arrived at Sitio Progreso, Barangay 9, Kabankalan with the lawmen, Dionzon, then 40 years old, claimed ownership of the lumber but could not show any permit.

Dionzon admitted ownership of the confiscated lumber as attested to by Pantano, and as shown by the fact that he signed as custodian of the lumber in the receipt for forest products, court records showed.

"The confiscated pieces of lumber which were admittedly owned by the accused were not legitimate lumber. The accused failed to produce any permit or license or the required legal documents for the said items to be valid," the judge said.

"The fact that the crime charged was perpetuated by the accused was credibly and amply proven by the convincing testimony of the prosecution witness, including the admission of the accused himself corroborated by the seizure receipt," Arles said.

LEGIT VOTER
A Maranao woman at Barangay Mini-forest in Davao City scribbles her signature on the slate of one of the validating machines being used by the Commission on Elections in its nationwide validation of voter's registration.

Activist bishop bids farewell to diocese

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

INFANTA, Quezon—"Always take care of the poor and the majority. Don't forsake them."

This was the appeal in Filipino of Bishop Julio Xavier Labayen, outgoing Catholic head of the Prelature of Infanta, during the canonical installation of his replacement, Bishop Rolando Tria Tirona, in a three-hour ceremonial Mass in the Infant Jesus of Prague and St. Mark Cathedral here on Wednesday.

On July 3, Pope John Paul II formally appointed Tirona, former bishop of Malolos, to replace the 77-year-old Labayen, who retired as prelate of Infanta.

The appointment continues the Carmelite tradition in the prelature. Infanta is considered historical to the Carmelite friars in the Philippines as this was the place of their first assignment in the country.

In his homily, Labayen, a native of Talisay City in Negros Occidental, strongly urged government leaders to exert a "decisive political will" and promote a "new kind of politics" that would evolve to fully support and benefit man in his wholeness.

Regarded as the leading activist among the religious during the martial law period, Labayen also called on the people to unite and stop "these *ibagsak, ibagsak* (down with) and other negative messages just like what we have been doing in the past."

Unity, this time

"This time, we should all unite and strive hard for the common good of the country," he told the faithful inside the jampacked cathedral.

"Let us all get our acts together," he said in his final message.

Three big television sets were strategically placed in different parts of the parking lot for the people outside the church to watch the proceedings.

Intermittent rains capped the whole ceremony attended by bishops, priests, religious, local government officials, military, students, non-government organizations and ordinary citizens.

Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco led the installation program.

At least five busloads of Catholic faithful from Bulacan led by Gov. Josephine de la Cruz also witnessed Tirona's installation.

Tirona pledged to continue all the programs of his predecessor. He said he would exert effort to focus more on the youth and the ill effects of illegal drugs on the young.

Mind-set

Fully aware of Labayen's popularity, Tirona said he still considered the high expectation from him as an advantage, pointing out that the task of a new bishop, or for any other Church leader, is always how to change the mind-set.

"But if one has a group of priests and laypeople with a wider perspective of what the Church is, one can easily beat the prevailing mind-set," he explained.

He added, "It's a matter of adjusting, especially in trying to see what I can contribute, given the wealth of what has been happening in the prelature."

"It's a matter of creative continuity from communion. I have no illusion here. I always believe in being simple," he said.

Quezon Rep. Rafael Nantes, coconvenor of Labayen in Tipan, a Church-based coalition of local multisectoral organizations, said the outgoing bishop would continue to be a part of the organization.

"With Bishop Tirona as our new ally in the battle against environment destruction and other social threat in northern Quezon, the organization will be assured of continuous well-defined direction," he said.

Indigenous people

Fr. Pete Montallana, coordinator of the Indigenous Peoples' Apostolate in the Prelature of Infanta and director of the Tribal Center for Development, said Tirona also pledged his continuous advocacy for the protection of the indigenous people in the Sierra Madre as part of the prelature's Catholic faithful.

"He already celebrated the Holy Mass in Tulaog cave even when he was still not yet an ordained bishop of the prelature. That's very symbolical," he said.

The Tulaog Cave, a 45-minute boat ride, is the sacred place of worship of Agta natives where they commune with their god, Makidipet.

Oca Catelo, Labayen's confidant among the prelature's pastoral worker, said he would surely miss the former bishop, "especially his high level of tolerance in all conflict situations."

More midwives pursuing higher education

By Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—More midwives in the country are getting their masteral and doctoral studies to uplift the quality of service that they give to communities that don't have access to medical workers.

Alice de la Gente, president of the Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines, said universities were now offering doctoral courses to midwives who want to improve their community work.

She said the midwives were not only trained to deliver babies as what was required of them when midwifery was still a vocational course but were also trained now to manage the community.

"The purpose of the doctorate is to prepare the midwives to take over the positions of doctors and nurses who go abroad. What I can see now is there are communities which will not see the doctors and nurses but only midwives," she said.

"If most doctors and nurses go abroad, who will be left to serve the community?" De la Gente asked.

She said the medical and nursing schools' curriculums tended to orient students to go abroad, while the midwifery schools' orientation was to make their students stay to serve the community.

The midwives are trained not to go abroad and are provided with the profession they need, she said.

De la Gente said the doctoral program helps prepare a midwife in community management.

Under the masteral program, midwives are trained in community organization aimed at providing better service to poor people.

"Midwives are the ones who are in the grassroots and we cannot deny that they are the front liners in medical service in the community. They should (learn) some theories in community organizing not only (because they are) health workers but they are also second mothers who are pursuing primary health care," said Lyndeen John Deloria, instructor of Western Visayas College Science and Technology.

At present, 39 midwives serve as facilitators of masteral education in selected universities. They comprise the first batch of midwives who took up Masters of Arts in Community Health Service.

The number of midwives who are taking up master's degrees has increased to 84.

When the masteral program was first offered, midwives from Baguio were among the first to sign up. The Pamantasan ng Lunsod ng Maynila has introduced a program that offers courses to midwives who live in far flung barangays.

Bomb-making materials recovered from Abu bandits

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Militiamen recovered at least three gallons of bomb-making materials from suspected Abu Sayyaf gunmen in Basilan on Tuesday, the military reported yesterday.

Brig. Gen. Bonifacio Ramos, commander of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade, said the bomb-making materials were found after the militiamen clashed with at least 10 bandits in Barangay Balatanay in Lantawan town.

Ramos said the village guards were conducting a patrol when they spotted the armed men believed to be led byr Hamsiraji Sali.

"When they (militiamen) scoured the place, they found three gallons of ammonium nitrate left by the fleeing bandits," he said. Ammonium nitrate is a key ingredient in the manufacture of bombs similar to the ones exploded in various areas of Mindanao.

The recovery of the explosive materials came in the wake of the military's announcement that the bandit group was plotting a massive terror drive.

The Southern Command on Tuesday said aside from plans to bomb this city, the Abu Sayyaf planned to explode bombs in various parts of Mindanao.

Southcom chief Lt. General Roy Kyamko said the attacks were aimed at avenging the death of Abdulmukim Ong Edris, the Abu Sayyaf bandit who bolted out from the Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame in Quezon City, together with Indonesian bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi.

Edris was killed in Sultan Naga Dimaporo in Lanao del Norte while allegedly trying to escape after he was arrested.

Kyamko said the bombing threats were not empty as the military monitored the presence of Abu Sayyaf gunmen here and in Western Mindanao.

"Some of them are here, (ready) to carry out their attack, but their plans were pre-empted. But if we put down our guards, definitely they will win," Kyamko said.

He said Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani, Basilan-based Sali and Isnilon Hapilon "are directing the planned attacks."

He said Janjalani was not in Western Mindanao but he was "in some places giving orders." Janjalani is believed to be hiding in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat with at least 50 followers.

The terror plot was discovered following the arrest last week of two bandits in Basilan.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya said brothers Asirin Suhod, alias Gamal Dawani and Popong, and Salahim Suhod, alias Salahim Dawani and Abu Tajib, were arrested by members of the Navy's Special Warfare and Action Group and the Army's Special Forces on Sangbuey Island in Lantawan on Aug. 19.

Abaya said an informant told the military about the presence of the Suhods, who carry a P1-million bounty for their capture, in Sangbuey.

Aside from being involved in the series of bombings in Western Mindanao, which killed more than a dozen people last year, the suspects were also main players in the Sipadan hostage-taking incident and the beheading of 12 local residents in Balobo in Lamitan, Basilan on Aug. 8, 2001.

The Abu Sayyaf, which became notorious because of its high profile kidnappings, has been blamed for the series of explosions here last year.

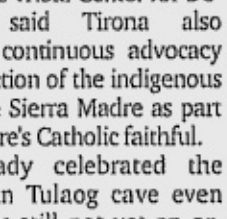
On Oct. 2, 2002, four people, including an American serviceman, were killed when an improvised bomb exploded near the Southcom headquarters.

Fifteen days later, a twin bomb exploded at a shopping mall, killing at least 12 people and wounding more than 200 others.

On Oct. 22, another bomb exploded in Fort Pilar, where Christians were gathered in honor of the Our Lady of Fort Pilar. A Marine soldier died while 11 others were wounded.

Kyamko said the Abu Sayyaf would also embark on a fresh round of abductions. *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE

IT is exactly 473 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Gov't troops, NPA rebels clash; 1 killed, 3 wounded

PAGADIAN CITY—Government troops on Wednesday killed a high-ranking New People's Army (NPA) rebel during a clash on the outskirts of Kumalarang town in Zamboanga del Sur, the military said yesterday.

Maj. Gen. Trifonio Salazar, commander of the Army's 1st Infantry Division, identified the slain rebel only as Junning.

Three soldiers, including an officer, were wounded in the three-hour gun battle.

Salazar said the clash came in the wake of a massive military hunt for communist rebels responsible for Tuesday's bus burning and robbery incidents in Tigbao town, also in Zamboanga del Sur.

He said government troops led by Col. Ignacio Obligacion, commander of the Army's 51st Infantry Battalion, were scouring Sitio Tubigan in Barangay Bolinsong when they spotted the heavily armed rebels led by Junning and one Merno Mingo.

The rebels fled, dragging along Junning's body, when they figured out that they were outnumbered, Salazar said.

He said the soldiers recovered an M-16 rifle, an AK-47 rifle, assorted rounds of ammunition and personal belongings of the rebels. *Hernan de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Controversial flyover gets fund boost

BALIUAG, Bulacan—The controversial flyover in this town, whose construction was stopped in 2000 due to its alleged anomalous bidding and opposition from residents and businessmen, will be completed soon after President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the release of P50 million for the project on Saturday.

The President, who arrived here from Pampanga at 3:30 p.m., asked Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez to report on the progress of construction of the flyover.

The project, which would have been completed in July 2000, was stopped after several top officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways in Central Luzon were investigated on the alleged anomalous bidding for the project.

Some owners of business establishments that would be displaced by the project also filed administrative complaints against the DPWH officials.

Josefino Rigor, DPWH regional director, said their office conducted a new bidding for the project on June 9 and awarded its construction to C.M. Pancho Construction.

But the local government is still facing opposition from residents and businessmen in the project site on Maharlika Highway.

Ms Macapagal asked Mayor Rolando Salvador to iron out the kinks so the funds for the project would be used.

"What would the Baliuag town council do considering that there are people opposing this project? How about you, Mayor Salvador? As President, I can order that the funds be transferred to other areas if there are people who do not want this project here. We are not forcing this project on Baliuag residents," the President said in Filipino during her brief speech.

Salvador, however, assured the President that "things have already been ironed out."

The P71-million flyover is expected to be completed in seven months and will be opened by Ms Macapagal before she finishes her term next year.

The President lamented that while Baliuag residents are opposing the project, those living in nearby Pampanga are supporting a similar flyover project there.

"I just came from Pampanga where I inaugurated a flyover. *Sa kanila, walang umayaw o nagreklamo. Sana ganoon din kayong lahat na taga-Baliuag; sana ay masaya din kayo dahil may* flyover *na kayo* (They did not oppose or complain about the project. I hope that Baliuag residents will follow their lead; I'm hoping that you will be happy because finally, a flyover will be built in your town)," she said.

The flyover is expected to solve the worsening traffic congestion along the Maharlika Highway, a major route linking Bulacan, Nueva Ecija and Pampanga to Metro Manila.

Ms Macapagal also announced that she would give priority to the construction of a flyover in Malolos City to solve traffic congestion in the Bulacan capital. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ROUNDUP

5 bank robbers hunted

DAGUPAN CITY—Police are hunting five men who robbed employees of a local bank of P3.5 million on Thursday. Supt. Noli Talino, city police chief, said the Bank of Commerce vehicle was about 20 meters from the Export Bank branch when armed men on board an Isuzu van stopped it and took two money bags from the four bank personnel. The robbers sped toward Pogo Grande, 2 km away, where they abandoned their vehicle, and transferred to a maroon Tamaraw FX. Talino said he believed the van was stolen as it had a fake license plate No. "8" (issued only to members of the House of Representatives). *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Muslim cleric shot dead

COTABATO CITY—A Muslim cleric was shot dead by a still unknown assailant on Sinsuat Avenue and Rosales Street on Wednesday. Senior Supt. Peraco Macacua, city police chief, identified the victim as Ustadz Zacaria Kana, who runs a mosque at the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center (CRMC). Macacua said Kana, of nearby Sultan Kudarat town in Maguindanao, was on his way to the CRMC aboard a jeepney when he was attacked at around 8:30 a.m. Kana died from a bullet wound in the head. *Rosa-May de Guzman and Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Negros irrigation project

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) has agreed to finance a P28-million irrigation project covering three towns of Negros Oriental. Fr. Francis Duran, Negros Oriental special project coordinator, said the proposed facility would benefit 600 farmers tilling 1,400 hectares of land in Tamlang Valley in Valencia, Sta. Catalina and Siaton. Once irrigated, Duran said, the valley will be planted to rice, corn and vegetables. The project, which will start next year and will be finished in 18 months, will be implemented by Jica, the National Irrigation Administration, and the provincial government. Water sources are the Siaton River and Inas Creek of Dobdob, Valencia. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Grocery owner killed

BACOLOD CITY—A businesswoman was killed while her husband was wounded Sunday after an armed man robbed their mini-grocery in Hinigaran town, 60 km south of here. Killed was Ofelia Valencia, 52. Her husband Domingo, 51, suffered a bullet wound in the belly. Senior Insp. Placido Composa, Hinigaran police chief, said the robber, who wielded a .45 cal. pistol, shot Ofelia when she called for help. Composa said the robber fled with at least P5,000 on board a motorcycle driven by his companion. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Ombudsman clears mayor

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Ombudsman in the Visayas cleared a town mayor and several village officials from charges of misconduct and oppression for lack of evidence. Cleared were Dauin Mayor Rodrigo Alanano and council officials of Barangay Masaplod Sur. The complainants, a former barangay chair and councilman, said the respondents cut off the water supply of Purok VII, Masaplod Sur, on Aug. 24, 2002 and accused them of political oppression and grave abuse of authority. Alanano said the complaint was among the "many fabricated and malicious cases" filed by his political opponents. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Pupil, 12, stabbed dead

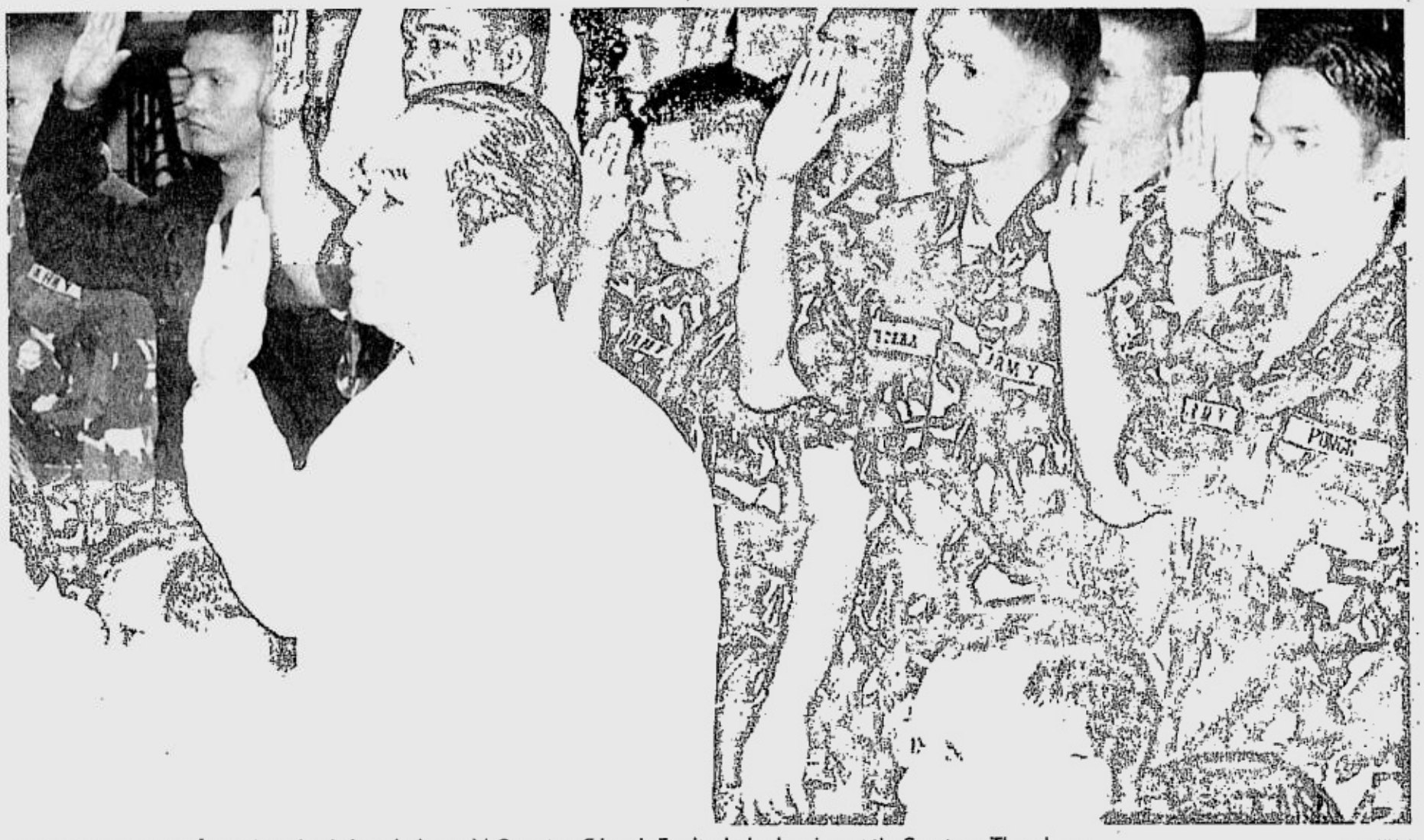
LIGAO CITY—A man believed to be suffering from a mental disorder, stabbed and killed a Grade 5 pupil on Wednesday in Barangay Tuburan, this city. Sherwin Eres, 12, was eating snacks during the recess period outside the East Central Elementary School when he was stabbed in the back. Insp. Antonio Peñafiel, case investigator, identified the suspect as Hipolito Llaguno, 26, of Daraga, Albay, who is now detained at the city jail. Recovered from the suspect was a kitchen knife. *Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

LGUs' role in tourism

A CONFERENCE designed to boost initiatives by Local Government Units (LGUs) to promote and develop tourism in the countryside will open today at the Business Inn in Bacolod City. Some 500 municipal and barangay officials in Negros Occidental have been invited to attend the Culture of Tourism Conference and Workshop sponsored by the Philippine Tourism Authority, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and Air Philippines. It is jointly organized by the Travel Cooperative of the Philippines, National Association of Independent Travel Agencies, TravelPost magazine and Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon. Topics include "Rural Tourism: Key to Economic Growth" by Rep. Billie Calizo of Kalibo, Aklan; "Buhayin ang Maynila" by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza; "From Barangay to World Tourism (Siargao: Surfing the Cloud 9 to World Tourism)" by Surigao del Norte Gov. Lyndon Barbers; and "Sun, Sand, Sea or Mountains Or? Piyaya? (Understanding the Business Mind of Tour Operators)" by Ed Nuque, managing director of Lakbay Travel.

Is mounting a coup part of a senator's job?

By Philip C. Tubeza



SOLDIERS in the Makati mutiny take their oath along with Secretary Eduardo Ermita during hearings at the Senate on Thursday. JESS YUSON

IS MOUNTING a coup part of a senator's job?

This is one of the primary questions that state prosecutors will seek an answer to in deciding on Sen. Gregorio Honasan's new motion, a ranking justice official said yesterday. Honasan is questioning the Department of Justice's jurisdiction over the coup charges already filed against him.

Justice Undersecretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez said the DOJ panel of prosecutors would decide if the criminal acts Honasan is accused of were "committed in relation to the performance of his duty as a senator."

If they are, then the Office of the Ombudsman has proper jurisdiction over the case, Gutierrez said.

If not, then the DOJ will continue with the preliminary investigation, she added.

"It would be up to the panel of prosecutors to decide. Our panel of investigators is still evaluating the evidence submitted," Gutierrez said.

Lawyer Daniel Gutierrez, Honasan's counsel, questioned the DOJ's jurisdiction over the case when Honasan surfaced at the department on Wednesday.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo reiterated her assurance that Sen. Gregorio Honasan would be accorded due process.

"We welcome the fact that Senator Honasan has placed himself under the jurisdiction of the justice system," President Macapagal-Arroyo said.

"There is no doubt that like any other Filipino, he will be accorded due process. No citizen, high or low, should be above the law."

Honasan's argument

Honasan's lawyer Gutierrez explained the senator's legal argument.

"(Because Honasan is) a senator of the Republic and a public officer, it is the Office of the Ombudsman that has jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute," he said.

"There is no indication that the panel of prosecutors of the department has been authorized by law to conduct the preliminary investigation. Neither has it been demonstrated that the panel has been designated by the office of the Ombudsman to conduct a preliminary investigation," he added.

Gutierrez even noted an INQUIRER story where acting Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio Jr. said that the Ombudsman should handle the case.

Gutierrez clarified that the motion he filed was not a motion to dismiss "on the ground of lack of jurisdiction, nor is it a motion for suspension of proceedings due to the existence of a prejudicial question."

"Having raised this issue and filed this motion, Senator Honasan is not waiving his right to submit counteraffidavits and supporting evidence prior to a preliminary investigation. He is willing and able to do so at such time when the pending jurisdictional issue is finally resolved," Gutierrez said.

He also denied that the motion was a dilatory move on the part of the defense.

"It would be all too easy for the senator to forego this issue momentarily and have the DOJ proceed with the investigation and prosecution of the case—and at the last moment raise the issue of jurisdiction," Gutierrez said.

"Despite this option, Senator Honasan, in the spirit of fair play and justice, wants to have this issue resolved at the very instance. He has not opted to play with our justice system, he opted not to contort our laws and processes, but rather he has chosen to face it squarely from its onset, seeking only that his right to due process be upheld by the authorities," he added.

Despite the defense motion, the DOJ's Gutierrez said the department was at least glad that Honasan was no longer in hiding.

"It's good that Senator Honasan has shown up. That means that he still believes in the justice system. We are glad to know that he considers this department as an impartial body," Gutierrez said.

She gave assurances that the senator would be given due process as the DOJ continues its investigation.

GMA's appeal

Now that Honasan has surfaced to answer coup charges, the President has another appeal, this time to the entire Senate.

"I invite the Senate to join me in consolidating our common gains in the road to normalcy. Even as the Senate inquiries move forward, let us leave to the judiciary the main task of mopping up the legal issues arising from the Oakwood crisis," the President said.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Honasan's appearance the other day was good for the country's legal system. *With a report from Juliet Javellana*

OLD BOOTS. Two rebel soldiers in the Makati mutiny appear at the carpeted floor of the Senate wearing combat boots that have seen better days. JESS YUSON

Oakwood probers debate original sin

From page A1

mutiny debated "original sin"—that is, the start of the country's sorry history of coup attempts.

One commissioner who had been a leader of the bloodiest attempt, the one of December 1989, started the exchange when he declared that it was actually the 1986 Edsa "People Power" revolt that started it all.

Retired Commodore Rex Robles, one of the six commissioners, said the Edsa revolts in 1986 and 2001 were both a form of "military intervention."

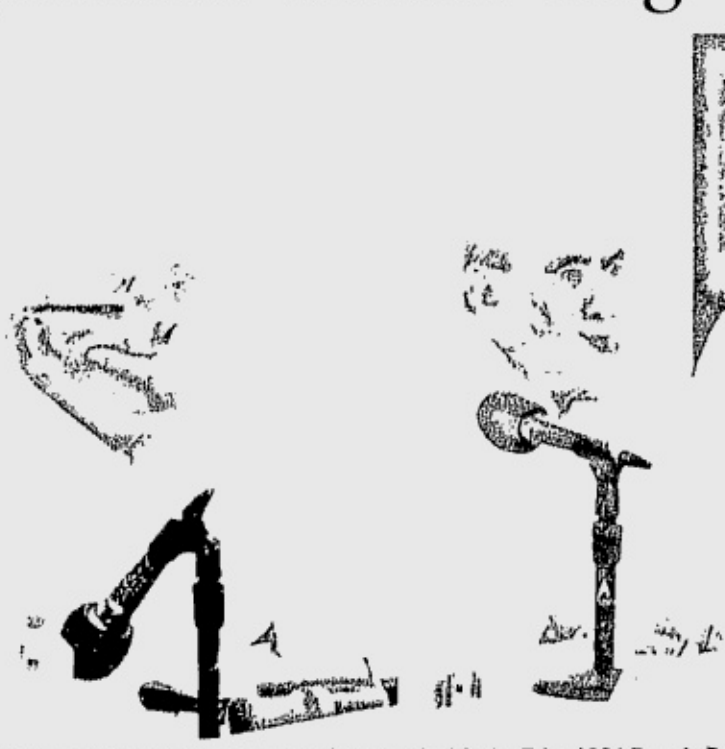
"So everything was military intervention. So my thesis is, Edsa I (is) the original sin of the military. That's one of the root causes of what's happening now," he said.

Army Col. Danilo Lim, who was the commission's witness yesterday, readily agreed with him.

But upon hearing this, UP Prof. Carolina Hernandez gave her own opinion without bothering to phrase it as a question.

Hernandez, also a member of the Davide Commission that investigated the 1989 coup, said that as a civilian she could not accept the military view that Edsa I should be credited solely to the soldiers who defected from the dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

"We look at it as a plot to put up a civilian-military junta and I wonder what would have happened if people had not come out (to support the defectors)," she said, without looking at Robles.



THE ORIGINAL sin? Robles says it started with the Edsa 1986 People Power; Feliciano says it was Marcos' martial law; Bernas, the Jesuit, says it started in the "Garden of Eden." ERNIE U SARMIENTO

HERNANDEZ: No, not Edsa I

The commission's chair, retired Supreme Court Justice Florentino Feliciano, interjected to tell Lim that Robles' opinion was not that of the entire commission's.

"I have a different view of original sin. Maybe it's martial law," he said.

Then he added that another member of the commission may have a "theological" view about the matter—sending commissioner Joaquin Bernas, a Jesuit priest, who was seated beside him, into a laughing fit.

During a break in the hearing, reporters jokingly asked Bernas where he thought the original sin began.

"Garden of Eden," replied the former dean of the Ateneo law school.

The other commissioners—retired Supreme Court Justice Minerva Gonzaga-Reyes and former Air Force 1st Lt. Roland Narciso, a Philippine Military Academy classmate of the mutiny leaders—stayed out of the debate.

Robles voiced his "thesis" about the history of coups d'etat in the course of questioning Lim.

Lim, who heads the 1st Scout Ranger Regiment, was among the government negotiators who convinced the Magdalo mutineers of July 27 to stand down.

He confirmed the earlier testimony of Commodore Tirso Danga that chief negotiator Roy Cimatu agreed to let most of the nearly 400 rebel soldiers get off with mere admonition," while the five confessed leaders alone would face the full consequences.

Gov't ...

From page A1

against the Estradas," Zuño said.

Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida also could not say if the charges were for rebellion or coup d'etat.

Calida said the CIDG complaint was based on the findings of military intelligence investigators who claimed that two vans found abandoned by mutinous soldiers at Sangley Point in Cavite on the eve of the July 27 rebellion were registered with the Jelp Realty Development Corp. owned by the Estradas.

The complaint also implicated other unnamed incorporators of Jelp.

The vans were allegedly used by the rebel soldiers in a raid on a Navy armory in Sangley Point on July 26 which was foiled after loyal government forces uncovered the plot.

Two of the vans were allegedly registered with Jelp Realty.

Jelp allegedly stands for "Joseph Estrada-Luisa Pimentel." Its address is No. 1 Polk St. North Greenhills Subdivision, which also happens to be the Estrada's residential address.

The military said it recovered a white Kia Vesta van, a Mazda van, and a Mitsubishi L-300 near the Navy armory on July 26.

The Kia and Mazda vans allegedly bore the stickers of the North Greenhills Homeowners Association.

The Mitsubishi and Mazda vans allegedly had Senate stickers.

The military also alleged that a white envelope sealed with a sticker marked "Jude Estrada PAF" was found inside the Kia van.

Jude Estrada is a reserve Air Force captain.

Palace: No 'snap' polls, no stepping down

From page A1

"We'll make mincemeat out of them," Garcia declared when asked how the military would react if the PMAP or any other group would initiate a coup attempt.

"I'm not saying that the report is true," he said at a press briefing. "But there is going to be a very minimal group, and the Armed Forces would have no problem crushing them. We're way past the time of the [July 27 mutiny]."

Ms Macapagal attributed the prevailing political and economic uncertainty to the "confluence of conspiracies" to undermine democracy.

She said "disgruntled and disenfranchised politicians" were "increasingly becoming disloyal to democracy and the rule of law," and had launched "a combined assault consisting of overt acts and propaganda tirades in an attempt to shake up the institutions of governance."

"Their efforts are desperate and obviously futile, and they will never prevail over our people," she said.

On Wednesday, the "united opposition" called a press conference wherein its leaders, among them ex-Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Francisco Tatad, aired a call for regime change now.

No crackdown

Bunye, however, said the President's warning did not mean there would be a crackdown on the opposition.

Asked if the united opposition's call for Ms Macapagal's resignation was out of the bounds of law, he said: "No, no. The words uttered were perhaps still within the limits, but she's just reminding that we have laws which in effect restrict our freedoms."

According to Bunye, a lawyer and former journalist, freedom of speech is not unlimited.

"There are legal nuances that have to be observed. When you define a violation of law, there are elements that are present, and if these elements are present then you're already overstepping your bounds," he said, adding:

"In other words, if you're just opening your mouth that is not prohibited. But if aside from opening your mouth you do some other related activity that tends to incite people to action, that may be already treading on questionable legal grounds."

Ms Macapagal made herself scarce yesterday amid the calls for her resignation and for a snap election, the coup rumors, and the raging controversy about her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Bunye said he was not aware that all the President's engagements yesterday were canceled, and said she had a breakfast meeting with him and several other officials.

He said another dinner tendered by the President Wednesday night for members of Philippine Military Academy Class of 1988 had nothing to do with the coup rumors and was her way of touching base with the troops.

No military component

Garcia voiced the belief that the planned rally of the PMAP had no military component, and was not connected with the united opposition's call Wednesday for the President to resign.

To the claim of PMAP leader Ronald Lumbao, as reported on TV, that now was the right time to mount a coup, Garcia said: "I'm telling them there is no such coup, and what they're saying ... is a patent lie.

"I don't think that information has to be dignified, coming as it does from the PMAP. In the first place, as I have [said], we have consolidated the Armed Forces and the situation has stabilized."

Asked about the real intention of the PMAP in mounting a rally at the Edsa Shrine, he said: "As rallies and demonstrations go, I think it is a means ... to destabilize the government and create a situation of instability.

"The government, the Armed Forces particularly, would always be on alert against elements that would want to cause instability in our country, especially at this time."

Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, information officer of the Philippine National Police, said authorities were closely monitoring the movements of not only the PMAP but also groups that "might violate the law."

"That's part of our job," he told reporters.

But Bataoil made it clear that no arbitrary arrest would be made. "We'll do what is legal and proper. We'll do what is expected of us, and that is to enforce the law," he said.

Bataoil said the PNP was "working closely" with the military and "also making our presence felt in vital installations."

He said the PNP would "hold its ground" in case of another destabilization attempt against the Macapagal administration.

"The PNP is strongly supportive of the chain of command and the present government," he said.

No basis

Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta's colleagues disagreed with her view that the President should call for a snap election. *(See story on Page A1:)*

Senate President Franklin Drilon said there was no basis for such an exercise, and pointed out that what political leaders could do was "join together in order to stabilize the situation."

He said he would urge the President to call political leaders and the "legitimate opposition" to a "mini-summit" for a thorough discussion of problems.

"There can be a sharing of ideas so that we can unite our people and those who are really interested in upholding the Constitution regardless of our differences," he told reporters.

Opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said a snap election would "further erode the integrity of the fundamental law of the land."

He and Drilon also noted that the 2004 election was just months away.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. urged a stop to "politicking" and said: "Why force an issue which can be resolved in nine months through a regular election? The matter of who will be the next president is a concern with a definite answer on May 10, 2004."

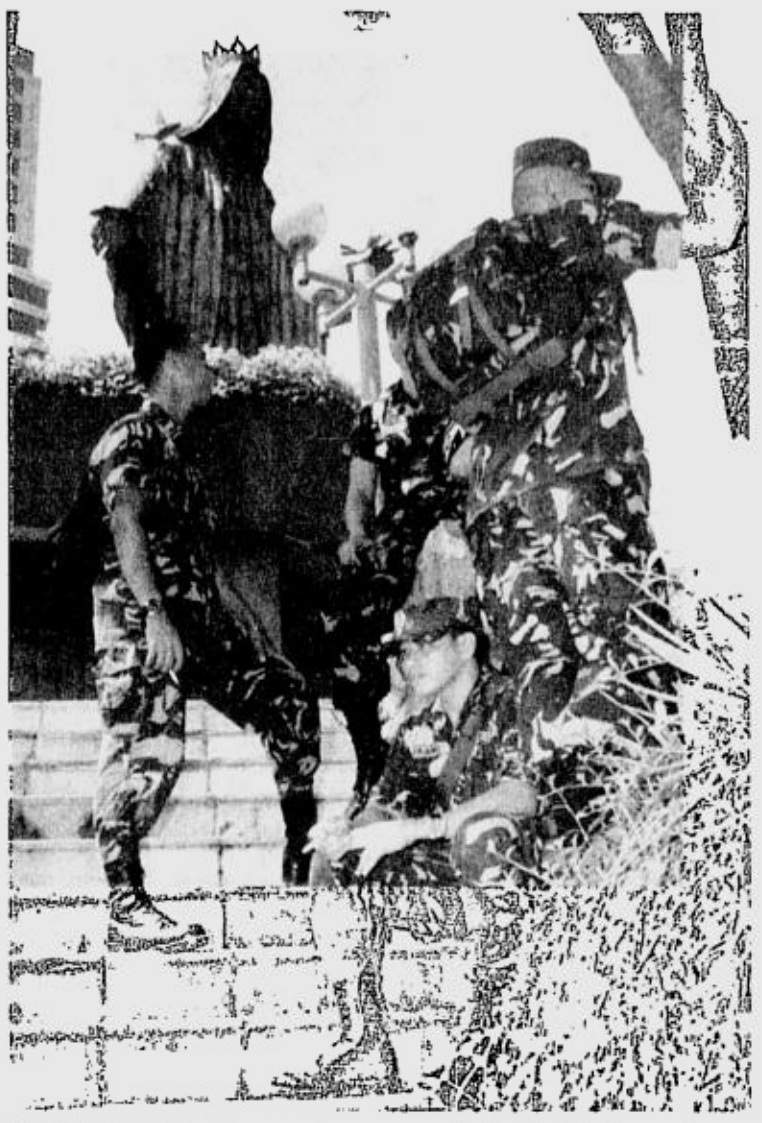
At the House, Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez (Iloilo City, NP) accused the political opposition of "treason," saying its efforts to "discredit" the administration was "ultimate disloyalty to the state."

He said the allegations being hurled against the First Gentleman's "Jose Pidal" bank accounts were obviously "premeditated."

"We are faced with a spectacle of a few people stunting the economic growth and destroying the political stability of our nation," Gonzalez said. "It is unfortunate how the overly ambitious have eroded our democratic processes."

Gonzalez said the opposition would "never enjoy the fruits of their treason."

"Why? Because the economic breakthroughs accomplished over the years would have been effectively discredited and reversed in order to create an artificial economic crisis," he said. *With reports from Christine O. Avendano, Carlito Pablo and Christian V. Esguerra*



GOVERNMENT soldiers continue to guard the Edsa Shrine against possible antigovernment protests. AP

Opposition can't wait for 2004, wants GMA to call for 'snap' polls

From page A1

election was aired yesterday by the People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP) through its national president, Ronald Lumbao, who said the recent expose by Sen. Panfilo Lacson on First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo was enough reason to do so.

Speaking at a press briefing in Quezon City, Lumbao said the people had "reached the peak of anger."

If the President refuses to heed their demand, he said, the PMAP would mount protest rallies, noise barrages and other mass actions starting next week in Mendiola, Manila, or at the Boy Scouts memorial circle in Timog, Quezon City.

Lumbao also said the PMAP would hold a noise barrage today to highlight the call for the President to step down.

According to Oreta, the country is in turmoil and has become "too divided and polarized."

She cited the "restless" military and the administration's continued "pillorying" of the mainstream opposition.

Oreta said what was most striking was Malacanang's "abduction" of Eugenio Mahusay Jr., Lacson's star witness to the alleged corruption and money laundering of the President's husband.

Trigger

Lumbao sees Mahusay's allegations against the First Gentleman as a "triggering mechanism" to the toppling of the Macapagal administration.

"This regime can be unmade by the suppression of the Mahusay testimony," he said, noting the events of 2001 when the people quickly massed at the Edsa Shrine after 11 senators, Oreta included, voted against the opening of the second "Jose Velarde" envelope during President Joseph Estrada's impeachment trial.

But when asked by reporters why the people were not trooping to Edsa the way they did after the historic Senate vote, Lumbao was at a loss for words.

Then he said the government's barricading of the Edsa Shrine was the reason for the lack of a critical mass for a possible Edsa IV.

"The government is scaring people [from going to Edsa] by using the instrument of the state to suppress dissent. The government should be more tolerant of legitimate dissent," he said, adding:

"For [the President] to deny us the right to do what they did before [at Edsa II] constitutes an attack on democracy. She knows they are at fault. That's why she's fearful of us."

Suppression

Although he views Mahusay's "abduction" as a "suppression" of the truth and as having the same effect as the Senate vote that preceded Edsa II, Lumbao admitted that the people had been slow in staging mass protests.

Lumbao, who is charged with rebellion in connection with the May Day siege of Malacañang in 2001 but is out on bail, refused to answer whether his group was negotiating with the numbers-rich Iglesia ni Cristo or the El Shaddai for the warm bodies needed for another shot at people power.

But he said that the crowd would come and that it could be bigger than the failed "Edsa Tres." He said they were now beginning to get support from militant groups and even the Edsa II allies of the President.

"The proof of the pudding is in the eating," Lumbao replied when asked once again how the PMAP could hope to get the middle class—Edsa II's critical mass—to its side. He said they had learned much from "Edsa Tres" and even the failed mutiny on July 27.

Lumbao, however, denied that the PMAP was part of any "destabilization plot."

He also denied that the group was out to install Estrada back in power, but he failed to answer the question of who would take over the government should Ms Macapagal step down.

Rallies

Lumbao said their planned rallies next week would coincide with the start of the Senate hearings on Lacson's expose against the President's husband.

He said the PMAP wanted Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the blue ribbon committee, to inhibit himself from the hearings on the grounds that the senator was in connivance with the First Gentleman.

When asked if the PMAP demonstrators would march to the heavily guarded Edsa Shrine, Lumbao said there was no reason why they could not do so.

"The shrine has always been a center of free expression. It is just that the authorities have preempted us," he said.

While this was going on, police were verifying reports of recruitment in Bulacan and Rizal for a planned massive rally in Metro Manila.

Mandaluyong City police chief Senior Supt. Ericson Velasquez said "concerned citizens" in Bulacan had told police they were being offered P500 each to join a demonstration. *With a report from Luige del Puerto*

Golez links Morales to Edsa IV plot

From page A1

closure, Golez replied: "We can brief the body on our intelligence report in an executive session."

Drilon then ordered a one-minute suspension. When the hearing resumed, he ordered stenographers to strike out from the records of the proceedings the statements of Golez pertaining to Morales.

Drilon said using an intelligence report to accuse someone was unfair because intelligence reports "may not be true."

"They (security officials) should act on intelligence report but it should be kept confidential unless there is already proof that it can stand in court, " he said.

Why me?

Morales said he was being targeted in the witch-hunting activities of Golez. But, he said, "why me?"

"First of all, I really don't know what he's talking about. I hate to say it, but Mr. Golez must really be having his nightmares lately," Morales said in a statement.

He then suspected that Golez, who linked him to the so-called Edsa IV plot, was suffering from a decline in his approval ratings based on a recent Pulse Asia survey.

"It appears that history is repeating itself, and the likes of Mr. Golez are worried they would be the target of public outrage," said Morales. He was an executive of the Development Academy of the Philippines when he went underground in 1977 as he was about to receive an award as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men.

He said Golez had yet to explain to the people why the government continued to fail in addressing the "growing discontent not only in the military establishment, but more seriously, among our impoverished people."

Morales admitted that Pwersa ng Masa was leading the "united opposition" in questioning whether there was rule of law under the Macapagal administration.

"Why can't the likes of Mr. Golez simply tolerate democratic vigilance, and stop harassing the political opposition?" he asked.

MORALES: Why me? JOAN BONDOC

1,500 troops at Edsa Shrine

Under questioning by Sen. Robert Barbers, Golez linked Morales to the alleged Edsa IV plot.

Barbers asked Golez why there were 1,500 troops from the police and the military at the Edsa Shrine for the past two days.

"I'm worried that with the deployment of [such a] number of elements from the PNP and the AFP, there might be again a threat to national security," Barbers said.

"The government is always prepared," Golez replied.

The national security adviser then revealed that he had received an intelligence report about a protest action, "numbering several thousands in order to have mass actions in such places as the ADB and Meralco."

Of course, the Edsa Shrine had always been a target of mass action, he said. "Therefore, the government is taking preemptive measure in order to prevent this ... so that it would not deteriorate into something of a threat (to national security)."

He then went on to say: "I would like to state this that per intelligence report the person behind this plan is Mr. Boy Morales. He was the same guy who also tried ... to also have [a plan for] 50,000 people to occupy the Edsa Shrine on the day of the [July 27] mutiny."

Intrigued, Barbers then asked if Golez was saying that the mass actions were to be staged by "elements under the leadership of Boy Morales."

"That is correct. You know, we always would like to make sure that this will not deteriorate into something beyond mass action," Golez said.

He then stressed that it was the "duty of a responsible government [to deploy elements] just to be prepared for any eventuality."

Prudence

This got the ire of Drilon who then said: "That is your duty, and you should do that."

"But I think you should exercise more prudence, unless you can tell us now that there is evidence available, which can pin Mr. Morales in court. I don't think it is fair [to] Mr. Morales to be branded here. As I said, I'm a defender of Mr. Morales because for all I know tomorrow it will be my name or any member of the senators," Drilon said.

He then cautioned Golez against issuing any unverified public statement. "For all you know the report will turn out to be false," he said.

Golez said the report was "very serious ... in the same way that we consider prior intelligence report very serious that led to the uncovering of the coup plot."

Drilon then repeated his call, saying Golez had the duty to "protect the republic."

"But unless you have proof, ... I strongly suggest (that you) avoid mentioning these names in public," Drilon said.

Golez then stated that this was his first time "to name anyone by name" in public. "I stand by my statement, and I'm fully prepared to accept responsibility for that statement."

Barbers then told Drilon that Golez was just merely answering his question. "[Morales was] mentioned as a response to my earlier question," he said.

"If that is the case .... whatever action Boy Morales may take against Golez that is his responsibility. Ours is to find out the truth of this deployment of the troops," Barbers said.

Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta said that she was glad that Drilon "put things in order" when he rapped Golez yesterday.

"They should be more prudent," Oreta said of the administration. "The reason there is much polarization is because of loose talk from the administration people."

Oreta said the government should just file against people they are accusing. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

Stargazers marvel at Red Planet

From page A1

est, it's there," said businessman Percival Cruz.

"This is an occasion to wonder at the immeasurable universe being God's creation, and bow our heads to Him," said Mary Calalang, a physician from Valenzuela, as she and her colleagues stood at the long queue leading to the Pagasa's powerful telescope.

To Joseph Collantes, 23, who brought along his fiance, Rachel, the event was "one of those opportunities in life that comes only once, so we might as well grab it."

A boy described what he just saw through the Pagasa telescope as "like a piece of siomai (Chinese dimsum)."

About a dozen students from Lopez High School in Quezon province left their school at 10 a.m. to make it to the nighttime show—which they intend to write about later in their school paper.

JAPANESE children view Mars displayed at the National Science Museum in Tokyo. REUTERS

A FAMILY of five looks at the heavens to try to get a glimpse of Mars amid overcast skies in Manila. AP

UFO sightings

In other parts of the world, Earth's rare rendezvous, next forecast for 2287, with the fourth planet from the Sun has triggered speculation ranging from serious to silly.

In Germany, the number of "UFO sightings" soared, fed by pervasive fantasies that Mars—with its craters, valleys and volcanoes not unlike those on Earth—hosts extraterrestrial life.

Werner Walter at Germany's Cenap center that follows reports of unidentified flying objects said he was "hearing the most outrageous claims," including one from a retired couple who said they were followed for two hours by an orange UFO.

Mars' fiery color might easily fool the uninformed "into believing they are witnessing the arrival of a UFO," he said.

War and misfortune

Lisbon's Observatory of Astronomy meanwhile said it had worried calls from people who feared Mars and Earth might crash.

Mars' proximity had soothsayers, notably in Asia, warning it would bring war, terrorism and disaster.

It would cast a spell of misfortune until Sept. 20, Indian astrologer R.L. Kanthan told the Times of India, saying that the two deadly car bombs in Bombay that killed 52 this week were the work of Mars, not Islamic militants.

"It will also increase the chances of war, terrorism and accidents," Thailand's leading astrologer Pinyo Pongcharoen told Bangkok's Daily News.

Hong Kong's Feng Shui master and astrologer Chung Kingkwong warned "there will be more natural disasters," pointing to the freak heat wave that left thousands dead in Europe this month.

But Portuguese astrologer Rui Lorga put a different spin on events.

"Men will be sexually more active," he told the A Capital paper. "But obviously women will also feel the influence of Mars, however in a more subtle way."

As of Aug. 27, the Red Planet will be a galactically trifling 55.76 million km from Earth, according to Belgian astronomer Jean Meeus, who calculated the two planets last came as close nearly 60,000 years ago.

Mars is usually about 225 million km away from Earth, but on Wednesday its orbit brought it about 34.6 million km away, reaching the closest point at 0946 GMT (5:46 p.m. in Manila).

Telescope sales soar

Shawn Bryan, the owner of Boston Telescopes in Massachusetts state, said the Mars phenomenon had been "fantastic" for him as stocks have nearly run out.

"Every single day we sell telescopes to people who want to see Mars. Our sales have doubled in August, even tripled."

An average telescope costs about $500 dollars but Bryan sells versions costing between $100 and $16,000.

Telescope sales also surged 20 percent in the past few days in Austria.

Best viewed in Tahiti

The best views of Mars were in the southern hemisphere, where it was higher in the sky.

David Laney, head astronomer of the Cape Town Observatory, said the best vantage point was Tahiti, but viewing would be spectacular anywhere.

The good viewing will last for days as Mars pulls away from Earth, astronomers say.

Even the Vatican got into the Mars-viewing act. The Vatican's Jesuit astronomers at the Pope's observatory at Castel Gandolfo were manning their 40-cm Zeiss telescope for some nighttime viewing.

In Lebanon, thousands gathered at the country's highest peak, the Cedar forest of Black Peak, on Tuesday night to try to see Mars through binoculars and telescopes.

In Australia, previously cloudy skies cleared over Sydney and thousands of people went out to catch a glimpse of the planet in the eastern sky.

About 3,000 people gathered along Hong Kong's waterfront for a closer look. Some waited to peer through a telescope atop Hong Kong's Space Museum, while others settled for the naked eye and cameras.

In Argentina, hundreds of people bundled up against the South American winter chill and passed the night at Buenos Aires planetarium to look through three telescopes set up for the public.

In Johannesburg the move was festive. Music blared from speakers and people spilled over the planetarium's steps scrambling for tickets to a show on Mars.

The Westchester Amateur Astronomers club in New York state held it's "Mars Party" on Wednesday but warned people to be ready to wait until 10:00 p.m. or later to get a glimpse. *Reports from Volt Contreras, AFP, AP*

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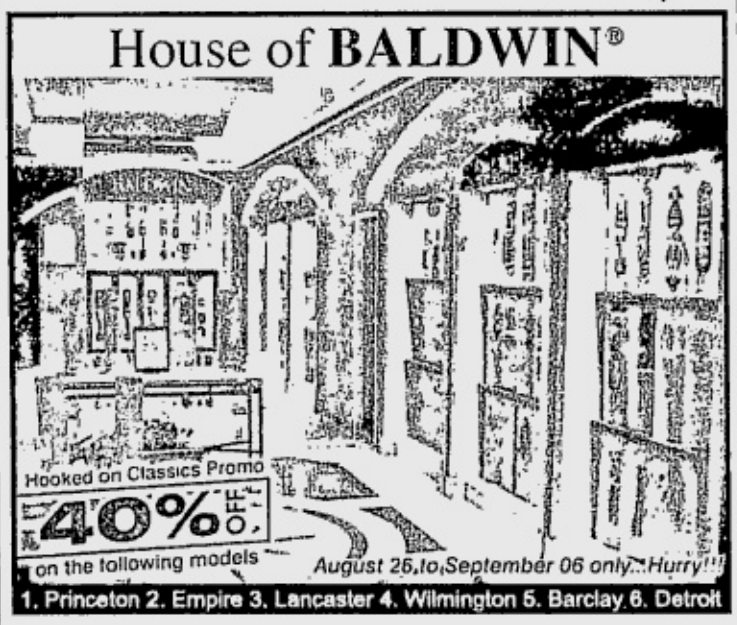

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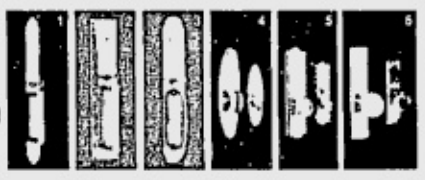

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GDP growth slightly off target . . .

From page A1

by 0.5 percent. The dismal growth was attributed to the El Niño dry spell, SARS outbreak in the region, US-led war on Iraq and the government's belt-tightening measures.

Neri said the year-on-year second quarter growth was likewise half a percentage point below the government's growth forecast ranging from 3.7 to 4.4 percent because of weakness in the agriculture and industry sectors. The government, he noted, also reined in spending to keep its ballooning budget deficit in check.

Neri said the country's economic managers were confident the government should be able to attain the low end of its GDP growth target of 4.2-5.2 percent for the entire year, but he conceded that hitting the high end of that range now looked beyond reach.

"The lower end of 4.2 percent is still likely but the 5.2 percent will be difficult to achieve," he said, adding GDP should grow between 3.8 and 4.3 percent in the third quarter.

First half GDP growth fell slightly to 3.9 percent compared with 4.0 percent in 2002, and economic growth needs to pick up at a 4.5-percent pace in the last six months to enable the government attain the country's full-year target.

The economy grew by 4.4 percent last year, according to revised data.

Politicians blamed

Neri blamed politicians for damaging the economy in their efforts to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo nine months before the 2004 presidential election.

"Our political environment is beginning to generate risks which is increasingly unacceptable to investors," he told reporters.

Investors yesterday dumped local stocks, sending the Philippine Stock Exchange main index falling 24.49 points, or 1.97 percent, to 1,218.42.

"Politicians of overweening ambition have turned the political maneuvering that normally precedes an election into a life-and-death struggle against the constituted government. In their effort to bring down the (Macapagal) administration, they seem to be targeting the economy itself," Neri added.

Even though Ms Macapagal survived the July 27 Makati mutiny by renegade soldiers, rumors of a new coup attempt and other destabilization plots persist.

The opposition has also stepped up its attacks against the President, accusing her husband of money laundering. First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo has denied the charges, but there is talk of more political bombshells against him.

Investors have also been concerned over the Court of Appeals order suspending Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura and other central bank officials. Buenaventura and the officials have vowed to fight the order.

Challenges

"Politics will be a drag on the economy for the second half," said Christy Tan, regional market strategist at Forecastweb.com.

"We have already seen it cause the currency to worsen and on the investment front it is going to be lackluster. The economy will basically have to rely on private consumption to drive it."

The peso has fallen sharply in recent months, threatening to raise the cost of imported goods the country needs to manufacture key exports such as electronics.

"It was disappointing," David Cohen, director for macroeconomic forecasting at MMS International, said of the latest GDP figures.

"But we are looking for a pick-up in the second half in line with optimism for an improvement in the global economic environment. Our full-year target of 4.0 percent GDP growth is still within reach."

GNP growth

Gross national product (GNP)—a measure of economic performance similar to GDP, except it includes the billions of dollars sent home each year by millions of overseas Filipino workers—was up 4.5 percent in April to June on a year earlier.

GNP growth in the year to the first quarter was revised downward to 5.1 percent from 5.6 percent.

The agriculture department said earlier this month that farm output had risen 1.5 percent in the year to the second quarter, lower than the 2.8 percent annual growth three months earlier due to a prolonged drought that started in late 2002.

Agriculture accounts for a fifth of the country's GDP. The Philippines is a major producer of coconut oil and tropical fruit but it is a net importer of rice, sugar and feed grains.

Exports, which make up about two-fifths of GDP, recovered in June from May but that was not enough to counter the slump in the previous two months. Electronics, largely assembled from imported components, account for about two-thirds of exports.

A strong growth of 5.0 percent in the services sector in the second quarter helped the country to "narrowly" avoid a technical recession.

On the demand side, personal consumption expenditure was the major source of GDP expansion in the second quarter, rising by 5.1 percent compared to 4.9 percent in the second quarter.

Neri, however, stressed investment was the key to sustainable growth, warning the Philippines was lagging behind its Asian investors in attracting capital.

Satisfied

Despite the lower-than-expected GDP growth in the second quarter, President Macapagal-Arroyo said the country's economic performance was not that bad.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said: "The President is satisfied with the economy considering that we performed better than other economies. We could have experienced a negative growth like the others."

The country's GDP growth of 3.2 percent in the second quarter was better than that of Taiwan (down 10 percent), Singapore (down 4.2 percent), and South Korea (up 1.9 percent).

The country's economy, however, lagged behind China (6.7 percent), Malaysia (4.4 percent), and Indonesia (3.3 percent.) *With reports by Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., AFP and Reuters*

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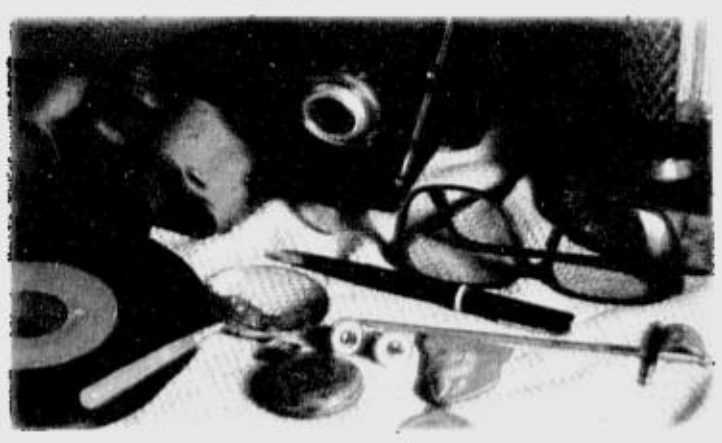

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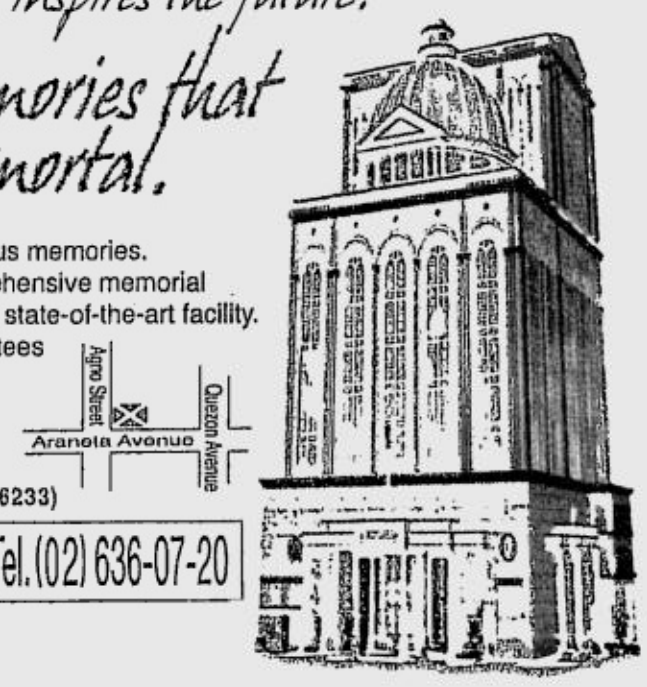

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Mahusay ...

From page A1

"He would answer all questions at the right time," said Ferdinand, the only member of the family who agreed to be interviewed.

Eugenio is the erstwhile star witness of Sen. Panfilo Lacson against Arroyo until he was taken by his family from Lacson's men in Milestone Hotel in Tagaytay City on Tuesday.

Lacson has accused Arroyo of laundering more than P200 million in campaign contributions to President Macapagal-Arroyo in bank accounts like those of Jose Pidal, allegedly the assumed name of the First Gentleman.

Members of the Mahusay family attended Mass at the Church of the Holy Sacrifice on the campus of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, to thank the Lord for the safe "rescue" of Eugenio.

Ferdinand told reporters that the safe rescue of Eugenio "had the blessings of the Lord because nothing bad happened to any of us."

The family members, however, refused to comment on what Eugenio's plans would be.

Ferdinand said Eugenio was still preparing himself and was yet to consult to a lawyer.

Michael Defensor, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, who drove the family to Tagaytay on Tuesday, will arrange for Eugenio's lawyer, according to Ferdinand.

Aside from his siblings, Eugenio was also accompanied by his mother Aquilina, his wife Julie Ann and his daughter Collin to the church. The family arrived at 12:30 p.m.

The family's arrival disturbed the Mass when photographers and cameramen took the pictures of Eugenio and his family. Some parishioners complained and the officiating priest requested members of the media to stop taking pictures and just do their job after Mass.

The INQUIRER tried talking to Eugenio's mother Aquilina, but she just murmured some prayers throughout the Mass and repeatedly said "I don't want to be interviewed" as the family went out of the church.

Members of the media followed Eugenio, escorted by his brother Jojo, from the church to their car, but the star witness did not utter any word.

Aquilina, Jojo, Eugenio, his wife and daughter boarded a green car after the Mass and left. Ferdinand talked to reporters for a few minutes before getting in another car.

AM I my brother's keeper? Whistle-blower Eugenio Mahusay Jr. (right) attends thanksgiving Mass at the UP Diliman parish church with his brother PO2 Joseph Mahusay. JOAN BONDOC

Ferdinand said the Mahusays came in late for the Mass because he had to fetch other members of the family in separate safe houses.

"We are happy that Eugenio is now with us. But we remain worried," Ferdinand said.

"Our family hopes this would all be over soon. The kind of life we have now is very difficult," he added.

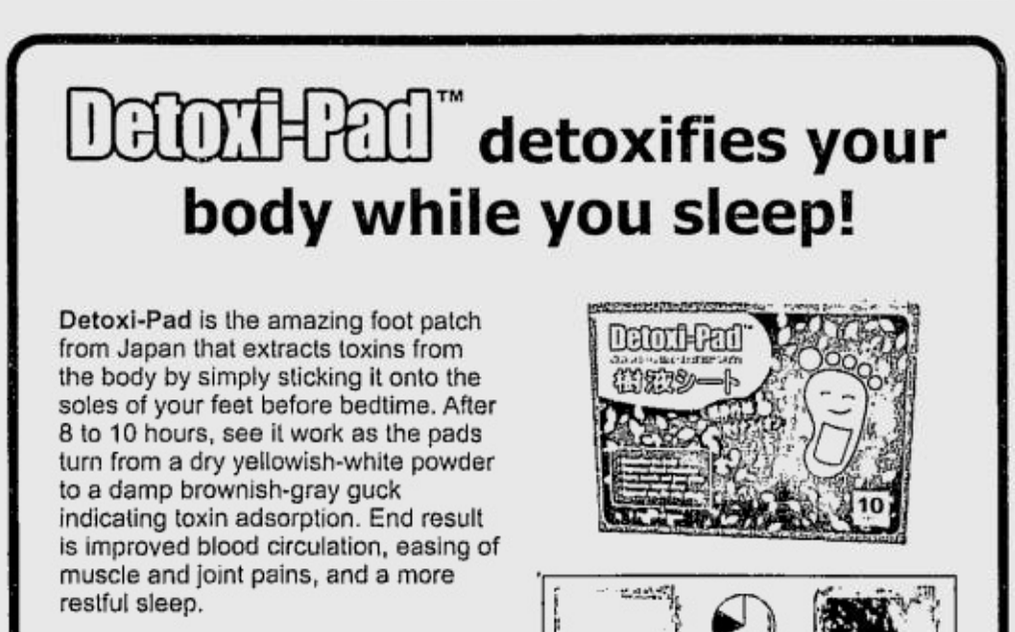
In the House of Representatives, opposition congressmen are seeking an investigation of the use of government resources and personnel in the "rescue" of Eugenio. Lacson called it an "abduction."

House Resolution No. 1297, filed by 18 congressmen, asked the appropriate House committee to look into the "desperate" attempt on the part of the Macapagal administration to abort a Senate inquiry into the details of the Jose Pidal accounts.

Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said 10 more congressmen were expected to sign the resolution.

In the resolution, the congressmen said the abduction of Mahusay by a group of men led by Defensor, backed by Presidential Security Group personnel and two Malacañang helicopters to fetch him, constituted obstruction of justice and suppression of vital evidence in a Senate inquiry.

With a reportf from Cynthia D. Balana



Someone gets raped every day in Metro, says report

By Alcuin Papa

THERE has been at least one reported case of rape in Metro Manila each day for the first six months of this year.

According to statistics provided by the office of Sen. Loren Legarda, a total of 202 rape cases were tallied in Metro Manila for the period of January to June this year.

This translates to about 33.5 cases every month, or 1.1 case every day.

The figures, which were based on reports submitted to the Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City, also showed that there had been a total of 1,599 rape cases reported nationwide for the first six months of 2003.

On the average, about nine rape cases—or one incident every two and a half hours—had been reported throughout the country daily.

This year's figures represent a 16 percent increase from the 1,375 cases documented over the same period last year.

A total of 2,592 rape cases were reported in 2002. In 2001, 2,613 cases were reported to the authorities.

This year, the Southern Tagalog region had the highest number of rape cases reported in the country with 220.

Metro Manila came in second, while the Bicol Region was a distant third with 148 cases.

Four rapists have already been executed by lethal injection between Feb. 1999 to Jan. 2000.

A total of 14 rapists were supposed to be executed last year, but President Macapagal-Arroyo imposed a moratorium on executions.

At least 112 rapists, whose sentences were affirmed by the Supreme Court, are already on death row.

In a statement, Legarda proposed the creation of anti-sex crimes units in all regional offices PNP of the PNP and the National Bureau of Investigation.

She also wants the full implementation of the law mandating the creation of a desk for women and children in each police station nationwide.

Legarda is also batting for the creation of rape crises centers in each city and province; the prompt enforcement of the Family Courts Act, which requires the creation of special courts that would handle all domestic cases including incestuous rape; a more aggressive drive against drug and alcohol abuse; and a sustained campaign against all forms of pornography.

Fateful embrace marks diocese opening

By Tina Santos

FR. ROBERT Reyes and Bishop Teodoro Bacani stole the thunder from Bishop Honesto Ongtioco after they were seen in a tight embrace following yesterday's ceremony establishing the diocese of Cubao.

A rift had reportedly developed between the two prominent Church figures after a woman accused Bacani of sexual harassment.

Reyes was among those who had helped the complaining woman, a former member of Bacani's staff.

Reyes told the INQUIRER that he embraced Bacani for about 10 seconds—away from the clicking cameras and prying eyes of media, and the thousands of churchgoers who attended the ceremony.

Reyes and Bacani both attended the installation of Rev. Ongtioco, DD, 55, as first bishop of the Cubao Diocese.

Manila Archbishop Cardinal Sin led men of the cloth and churchgoers in solemn rites creating the new diocese out of the former Immaculate Concepcion Parish Church.

The Immaculate Concepcion in Cubao, Quezon City, has also been declared a cathedral.

Bacani was about to leave the cathedral when the two Church men came face to face.

"Bishop, I'm not against you, I've always stood by you," Reyes recalled telling Bacani.

"I've always believed that, I never doubted that," Bacani reportedly replied.

But Reyes refused to call their brief encounter a "reconciliation."

"We never fought," Reyes said in an interview. "What I did was an expression of my love and respect for my brother priest."

A ROMAN Catholic nun accompanied by novices make their way to the new Cubao diocese as a large commercial display of a US apparel, with a model stripping off her mini skirt, looms large above them. AFP

"We may have a lot of differences ... I've disagreed with him a lot of times, but it doesn't mean I am against him," Reyes added. "I helped the woman because she needed help more, she had no one to lean on. For Bishop Bacani, there are a lot of people—fellow priests and bishops, parishioners—to support him. But at least now, I'm happy that the speculations that I'm against him will finally stop."

Man takes 3 boys hostage in Caloocan

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

ROMEO Garay treated Joemar Itong as a true friend and even allowed Itong to live in his house. On Wednesday evening, Garay was shocked when Itong took hostage his three sons.

For five hours, Garay had to endure the nightmare of seeing his sons—aged 2 and 13—being held by Itong, who was armed with a 15-inch bolo and was reported to be high on shabu.

At about 3 a.m. yesterday, the hostage drama in Caloocan City was peacefully resolved. But one of Garay's sons was slightly injured, police said.

Garay told members of the Caloocan City Police that after dinner at about 10 p.m. on Wednesday, Itong approached him and asked for a cigarette. But Garay did not have any cigarettes so he decided to go out of their house on F. Aguilar Street, Bagong Barrio, Barangay 139 to buy a few sticks at a nearby store.

As Garay was going home, a frantic neighbor rushed to him and told him that Itong had gone up to the shanty's second floor armed with a bolo.

Garay rushed upstairs and saw Itong holding a bolo.

Sensing danger, he told Itong that they should both go downstairs to talk things over.

But Itong suddenly became restless and entered the house's bedroom, where Garay's wife and five kids were sleeping.

Garay's wife and two kids managed to escape. But Itong caught the remaining children. The suspect held on Garay's two-year-old son and aimed the bolo on the boy's neck.

Itong also broke the room's light bulb and a small mirror, the shards gashing Garay's two-year-old son.

The worried father immediately ran to the Barangay 139 outpost for help.

At 11:30 p.m., barangay watchmen and policemen arrived at Garay's house. Barangay chair Nelson Nazareno tried to convince the suspect to go down but he failed.

Caloocan City Police Station 1 Cmdr. Ronaldo Lumactod told the INQUIRER yesterday that Itong first demanded a helicopter so he could escape.

The suspect also demanded some food. City Police Investigation Division chief Dionicion Borromeo also tried negotiating with the suspect.

At 2:30 a.m., policemen were preparing to attack Itong to rescue the boys, as the negotiation was breaking down. The suspect then demanded that he be allowed to talk to his brother.

The police fetched the suspect's brother Joel in Valenzuela. After a few minutes, Joel was able to convince Itong to go down and let go of his hostages—ending the five-hour hostage drama.

Neighbors believed Itong was a drug user, according to the police. He had been staying at Garay's house for more than a week, prior to the hostage.

Itong is now detained while the police are preparing charges of serious illegal detention against him. Itong had also been tested for drug use.

Scam suspects stir up row between BJMP guards, NBI

By Alcuin Papa

A LAWYER for suspects in an alleged pyramid scam caused a commotion in front of the Pasay City courts yesterday morning when he refused to have his clients taken into custody by the Pasay City police.

Lawyer Mariano Santiago tried to block the detention of Maria Teresa Santos, owner of Maria Teresa Santos Trading Inc. (MTST) and Ernesto Leverias by police despite a warrant for their arrest issued by Pasay City Regional Trial Court Judge Henrick Guingoyon of Branch 117.

Santiago's clients were already under the custody of the Naga City police.

As the vehicle bearing the suspects and members of the Naga City Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) was about to leave for Naga at 10:00 a.m., it was blocked by members of the Pasay City police and agents of the National Bureau of Investigation.

A tense standoff occurred when Mariano refused to turn over his clients.

Later, Santos and Leverias were taken into custody and detained at the Pasay City Jail.

The other day, victims of Santos in an alleged "pyramid scam" found out that she would be attending a 1:30 p.m. hearing at the Pasay City court.

Santos is being accused by some 800 Pasay residents of running away with their money.

The complainants also found out that Santos was under the custody of the Naga City police and was allegedly receiving VIP treatment.

The victims then proceeded to the NBI to complain. They claimed that before her appearance before the courts the other day, Santos was not attending any of the hearings.

They demanded that Santos be detained in Pasay since there were only 59 people in Naga City also claiming to have been victimized by the accused.

Santos is also facing cases in Marikina, Quezon City and San Juan. She is said to have defrauded her victims of a total of P1.7 billion.

The NBI is still looking for other cohorts of Santos.

METROBRIEFS

P3M lost in blaze

AT LEAST P3 million worth of property was destroyed when an hour-long fire gutted a commercial and residential area yesterday morning in Quezon City. Arson investigators said the fire started at about 7 a.m. inside the Demacale Sarisari Store at the corner of New York and Montreal Streets, Barangay E. Rodriguez, Cubao. The fire quickly spread to adjacent videoke bars and a house owned by a certain Willy Pamintuan. No one was reported injured in the incident but arson investigators said they had yet to determine the cause of the fire. *Tina Santos*

Driver sandwiched

TRICYCLE driver Ramil Villafano, 25, of 31 Bayabas St., Barangay Western Bicutan, Taguig, thought he could outrun two trains but he was mistaken. Villafano was caught between two trains yesterday morning and died before reaching the hospital. SPO2 Ronald Dimaguila said the accident occurred at around 7:00 a.m. along the access road in Western Bicutan. Investigation revealed that Villafano was having a tire of his tricycle vulcanized at a nearby shop when he thought of relieving himself along the railroad tracks. While he was responding to the call of nature, two trains came from opposite directions in an apparent move to link up. Seeing the trains come, Villafano tried to make a run for it but was caught in the middle of two rail cars. *Alcuin Papa*

Bad sign for Manila motels

SOON, motels in Manila may have to look for other means to advertise. Councilor Ma. Theresa Bonoan-David of Manila's 4th District has proposed before the City Council a resolution to ban the display of motel signs. "The signs have proliferated all over the city," said Bonoan, adding that the signs encourage pre-marital sex among the youth. "Some motels charge only P100 for a three-hour stay," she noted. "Students may be enticed to avail of the cheap rates." In her bill, motels will only be allowed to post signs at their establishments. When approved, the ordinance will penalize violators with a fine of P1,000. *Tarra Quismundo*

Tamayo takes oath

DR. DAISY Moran Tamayo recently took her oath as second president of the University of Perpetual Help Rizal at the Ernesto Crisostomo Hall, UPHR, Las Piñas City. Retired Supreme Court Justice, Isagani A. Cruz, dean of the UPHR College of Law, administered the oath. Tamayo replaces her husband, Dr. Antonio L. Tamayo, who is now president of the University of Perpetual Help System of schools and hospitals. Tamayo took her BS in Nursing degree from Silliman University in Dumaguete City, her Master's in Nursing from New York University, and her Doctorate in Organizational Development from the Southeast Asian Interdisciplinary Institute.

Woman held for duping QC funeral parlors

By Tina Santos

SHE WAS using the dead to make a living.

Quezon City policemen yesterday arrested Jocelyn "Joy" Undan Caringal, a 44-year-old widow, after the lawmen received estafa complaints from at least three funeral parlor owners against her.

Caringal of Malabon City is now detained at the Central Police District headquarters.

Manuel Gines, 50, proprietor of Heart and Mary Memorial Homes, Virgilio Labrador, 52, owner of Blessed Funeral Homes and Edgardo Ortega, 52, of Dynasty Funeral Homes, told members of the CPD's Criminal Investigation Unit that Caringal had sweet-talked them into parting with their cash.

According to the victims, the suspect would call the funeral parlor seeking assistance for her husband who had died abroad.

She would then ask the parlor staff to pick up her husband's body from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

At one time, the suspect even told a parlor employee that her soldier son in Zamboanga had died in battle and his body would be flown to Manila.

But before the funeral personnel could fetch the bodies of her "loved ones," Caringal would tell the victims that she would need money to expedite the papers.

The parlor owners then parted with their cash—from P2,000 to P12,000.

Police said that they are expecting more people to lodge complaints against Caringal.

Pillbox goes off in frat man's hand

By Leila Salaverria

A MEMBER of the Gamma Phi Fraternity was injured in Manila Wednesday night after he picked up a pillbox that he had mistaken for a rock.

Police suspected the pillbox had been thrown by members of a rival fraternity.

Investigation showed that the victim, King Israel M. Baltazar, 24, a graduate of the Emiliano Aguinaldo College and a resident of Valenzuela City, had been drinking with seven of his friends at the Carlos Palanca Compound on Gen. Luna Street in Ermita, when the explosion took place.

Police said Baltazar had left his friends to take a leak at a nearby pile of trash when the pillbox fell close to where he was standing and rolled toward him.

Thinking the pillbox was a rock, he picked it up with his right hand.

The pillbox exploded in Baltazar's hand, injuring him in various parts of the body.

His friends took Baltazar to the Philippine General Hospital, where he is undergoing treatment, police said.

Lawmen identify 4 more suspects in bank rob

By Margaux Ortiz

POLICE yesterday identified four suspects who stormed the Citibank Center on Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village, Makati last Monday.

Senior Supt. Jovito Gutierrez, Makati police chief, said the suspects were identified through the Department of Interior and Local Government photo file.

Police are now hunting down Rodolfo Leyte, Rodolfo Amistoso, Eli Roman Perez and Randell Llanos for robbing the cash department of Citibank Center.

Gutierrez said they also have police sketches of two other suspects.

The police chief said the suspects rode four motorcycles to "clear the way" for the three getaway vehicles—two vans and a Toyota Revo—during the robbery.

"We believe that the suspects conducted training exercises to find out the best escape route before they committed the crime," Gutierrez said.

Meanwhile, police are now placing 12 Citibank security guards under close scrutiny. According to PO2 Ricky Corpuz of the theft and robbery section, they are going to request the national police crime laboratory to conduct lie detector tests on the 12 guards who were on duty at the time of the robbery.

He said that investigators still have no idea how the robbers were able to get through the bank's closed doors.

Corpuz said that they do not know how much was stolen from the bank.

Solon draws flak for junket

By Leila B. Salaverria and Tarra Quismundo

MANILA Rep. Harry Angpin yesterday drew criticism from a militant group for treating 60 barangay chairmen to an "educational trip" to Hong Kong last week.

Angping, who represents the third district of Manila, claimed he used his own money to finance the trip.

The trip is now being investigated because the barangay officials did not have travel permits from the mayor's office.

The Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (BMP) said in a statement it seemed Angping was generous to the barangay men yet so miserly with his workers.

BMP head Victor Briz also accused Angping of union-busting.

Briz said Angping is the owner of Namboku Peak, Inc., a company in charge of the cargo handling operations at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and has been accused of union busting and engaging in contractualization by the Philippine Airlines Cargo Employees Association (Palcea).

He also claimed that the congressman imposed a drug testing requirement in his company at a time when his employees have begun forming a union.

Angping branded the accusation as "totally false."

"They (workers) did not want to subject themselves to the drug test. And they wanted to form a union while they were not employed anymore," Angping told the INQUIRER.

He said the employees who wanted to form a union would have jeopardized the operations of the company which provides a "very important service" for the Philippine Airlines.

Briz claimed around 100 workers of Nambaku lost their jobs when Angping made the drug test a requirement for the renewal of the employees' contract.

WPD seizes P1-M shabu

THE WESTERN Police District has confiscated P1.2 million worth of shabu and arrested six suspected drug pushers in separate incidents.

On Wednesday night, police recovered P840,000 worth of shabu from Marissa de los Santos, 33, and Dennis Bacalla, 22, during a buy-bust operation along Lope de Vega St. near the Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital.

Last Monday, four persons believed to be big-time pushers from Quezon City yielded 209 grams of high grade shabu worth over P418,000 in a buy-bust operation.

The four were identified as Rose Atilano, Ronnie Sinsy and Aldren and Edgar Laya. All are from Culiat and Manggahan, Quezon City. Leila Salaverria

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 2003

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METRO

Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

SUERTRES SIX DIGIT: 0 9 4 (In exact order); 1 1 2 5 6 1

SUPERLOTTO 6/49: 3 11 27 29 36 37

Bullet fells lawman in 7th Manila ambush

By Leila B. Salaverria

SENIOR Police Officer 3 Danilo Reyes was a policeman assigned to the National Capital Region Police Office's Service Support Group.

Yesterday, Reyes ceased being a lawman and became a mere statistic as he was recorded as the seventh ambush victim in Manila since July 1.

The killing of the policeman by yet an unidentified assassin occurred even as the Western Police District stepped up security within the city.

Supt. Hospicio Guevarra, Station 7 commander, said Reyes was shot as he was killing time along Callejon Saavedra in Hermosa, Tondo, in front of the house of a certain Eliza Eugenio.

Guevarra, however, insisted that the incident was not an ambush but a simple case of homicide.

Initial investigation revealed that Reyes was hanging out along the narrow alley between 2:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. when the gunman walked up to him and fired a single shot to his head with a .45-caliber pistol.

Reyes, who was in civilian clothes, died on the spot. Police said the suspect walked away after the shooting.

Blank wall

Guevarra, who went to the crime scene after the incident, said no one from the neighborhood could say why anyone would want to kill Reyes.

"This is a neighborhood, but nobody wanted to talk," he said in a phone interview.

He added that Reyes was well known in the area because he had lived there.

Witnesses described the gunman as between 20 and 30 years old, fair-skinned and around 5'4" to 5'6" tall. He was wearing a head covering, but witnesses were unsure of what it was.

Six previous attacks by gunmen have been reported in Manila in the past two months.

In July, sports official Go Teng Kok and Customs collector Felipe Bartolome survived ambuscades near their places of work, but Bartolome's driver was killed.

This month, Caloocan City Hall employee Cecilia Ramos, lawyer Franklin Tamargo and Barangay Chairperson Minda Pimentel and businessman Benigno Medina were killed in separate attacks.

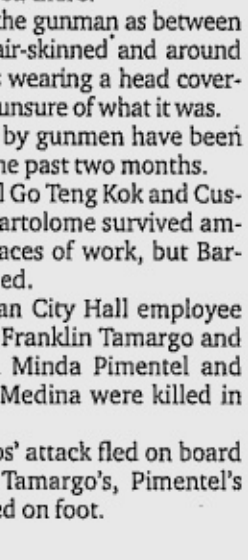
The suspect in Ramos' attack fled on board a car, while those in Tamargo's, Pimentel's and Medina's killing fled on foot.

Daughter-in-law of mall owner hurt in shooting

By Margaux Ortiz

THE DAUGHTER-IN-LAW of business tycoon Antonio Martel was shot under mysterious circumstances in their posh Makati City home Tuesday afternoon.

Melissa Martel, 41, a resident of Unit 504-A 6475 Ritz Tower, Ayala Avenue, was rushed to the Makati Medical Center at about 4:45 p.m.



MARTEL

She bore a gunshot wound in the upper part of her abdomen.

The victim is the wife of Robbie Martel, son of the owner of Harrison Plaza complex.

Police investigators said that Martel is still being observed at the Intensive Care Unit of the hospital.

Dr. Ramon Francisco said Martel would give her statement when her condition stabilizes.

According to PO1 Reuel Riodique of the Makati City police homicide section, the victim's family refused to provide information on the circumstances that led to the wounding of Martel.

Police said even the security guard of the Ritz said no shooting incident took place. There was also reportedly no record of who brought Martel to the hospital.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Antonio Martel's office but his staff refused to give any details regarding the victim or the incident.

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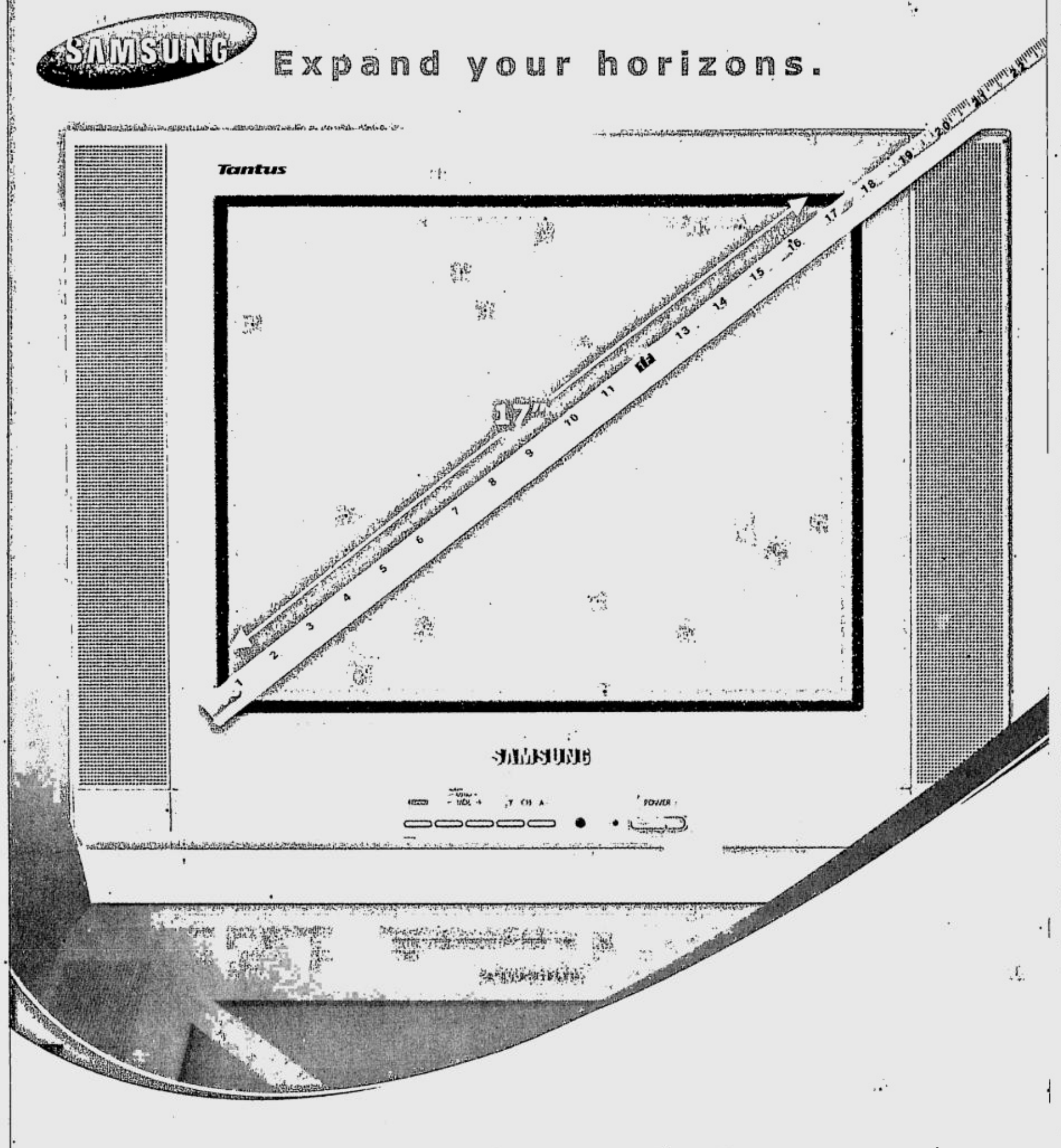

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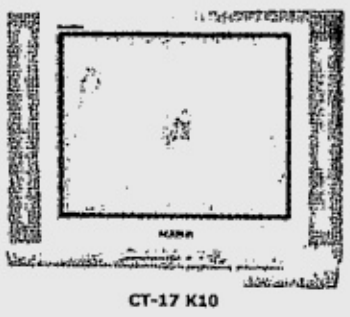

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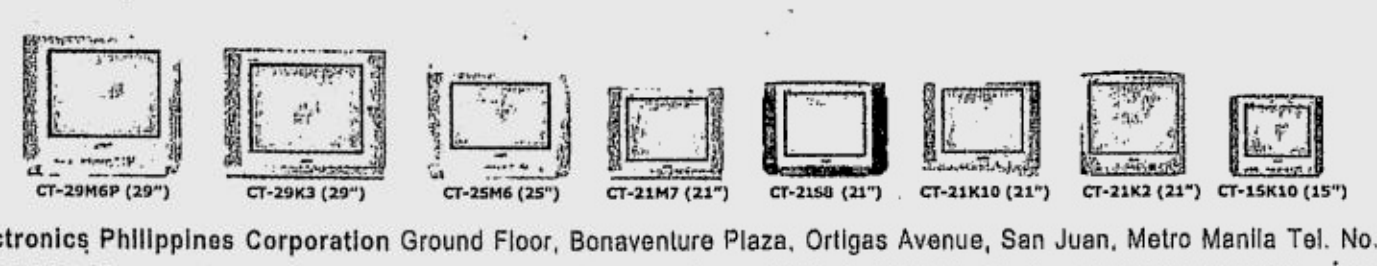

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■ DOJ wants more time to act on Asi & Co /A26

■ Junio in semis clash with Asuncion /A28

■ Brazil, Argentina fives fall; US wins /A29

Lightning strikes twice, shocks Ateneo, La Salle

By Dennis U. Eroa

THE NATIONAL University Bulldogs just wouldn't go out without making the bite that was felt round the college basketball world yesterday.

Already out of the running for a Final Four slot, the Bulldogs limited Ateneo's defending champion Eagles to a record two points in the third quarter to post a stunning 76-62 victory in the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Araneta Coliseum.

Even NU mentor Rico Perez looked bewildered with the sudden twist as he faced the press during the usual post-game interview reserved for the winning coach.

"We have nothing to lose, we're fed up with losing," said Perez, whose charges improved to 2-9. The last time the Bulldogs tasted victory was when it beat UP, 74-70, during the opener on July 12 at the same venue.

And because misery loves company, the UP Maroons dished out another stinger in the form of an 80-70 shocker over the La Salle Archers, last year's runner-up and winner of four straight titles from 1998, in the second game.

Like NU, the Maroons picked up only their second win in 10 outings while pinning a fourth loss on the Archers also in 10 games.

The loss dropped the Eagles to second place at 8-3 behind idle Far Eastern's 8-2 card.

Ateneo's 2-point output was the worst since the four-quarter format was used in 2001. Adamson held the old record by scoring just three points against UE also during the 2001 season.

GAMES TOMORROW
(Araneta Coliseum)
11 a.m.—UST vs Adamson (Jrs)
2 p.m.—UST vs Adamson (Srs)
4 p.m.—FEU vs UE (Srs)

The Eagles, missing the hot hands of Larry Fonacier, played without their old fire and intensity.

Fonacier was out with a fractured nose he suffered during practice last Sunday and watched glumly as his teammates got clobbered by the Bulldogs starring Bryan Tolentino, Rey Mendoza, Froilan Baguio, and Ronnie Cajayon, who combined for 67 points.

"It's a case of wanting to win and not playing," said Ateneo mentor Joel Banal. "We were somewhat out of sync without Larry," admitted Banal.

Fonacier averages 14 points per game and will play on Sunday as Ateneo tries to come back against UP.

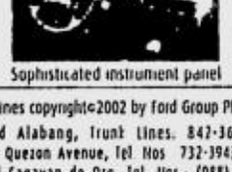
NU, which outrebounded Ateneo, 48-41, and committed less turnovers, 19-25, made its biggest move in the third period.

A 7-0 start gave the Bulldogs a 45-31 lead. After Paolo Bugia broke the Eagles' scoring drought with an undergoal stab, 45-33, NU

LIGHTNING/ A26

AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

UP's Jireh Ibañez and La Salle's TY Tang dispute possession.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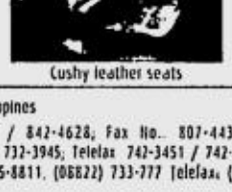
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It's go for Palaro in Tubod Oct. 5

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE 2003 Palarong Pambansa will now be held Oct. 5-12 at its original site —the Mindanao Civic Center in Tubod, Lanao del Norte.

This was announced by the Philippine Sports Commission yesterday following an order from President Arroyo to give priority to the staging of the already twice-postponed national games for elementary and high school students.

"The Palarong Pambansa is expected to be free of major hitches," according to a PSC press release. "Preparations have now shifted to high gear and all the various committees which have already been set up last year are now being put back in place."

PSC chair Eric Buhain said the staging of the Palaro is in line with the President's Mindanao National Initiative agenda. He added this year's Palaro would be the centerpiece of the peace process initiated by the government.

Ms Arroyo has given full support to the Palaro after the start of the peace negotiations between the government and Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Meanwhile, officials of Lanao del Norte expressed delight over the development, saying they haven't stopped preparing for the Palaro. They added that conditions have long since returned to normal in Tubod since reports of skirmishes in April.

Buhain said he is confident that all 17 regions would send their entries to the Games because all safety precautions have been put in place.

"This is sports and we're apolitical. The staging of the Palaro in Mindanao is expected to be a unifying factor for Christians and Muslims because this is primarily for the youth and the whole Mindanao region," Buhain said.

Lanao del Norte, through the initiative of Gov. Imelda Quibranza-Dimaporo and Rep. Abdullah Dimaporo, won the right to host the Palaro in 2000 following the completion of the P500m MCC, which is the biggest, most modern sports facility in Mindanao.

At least 8,000 student athletes are expected to see action in the Palaro, which President Arroyo is expected to declare open.

Ms Arroyo had earlier approved the release of P30 million for the meet, in addition to the P10 million already provided by the congress through the General Appropriations Act.

Justice department wants more time to act on Asi & Co.

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice needs more time to review the evidence before it cancels the citizenship of Asi Taulava and seven other Fil-foreign players so the Senate order for their summary deportation can be carried out.

"We have received the Senate committee reports and we will investigate this further," Justice Undersecretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez said yesterday.

The Senate report and other evidence against the eight Philippine Basketball Association players were sent by the Bureau of Immigration following a Senate order that they be deported for faking their citizenship based on the findings of the committees on games, amusements and sports and constitutional amendments.

Aside from Talk 'N Text's Taulava, the other Fil-fors are Rudy Hatfield of Coca-Cola, Alaska's John Ordonio, Andy Siegle of Purefoods, Red Bull Barako's Davonn Harp and Mick Pennisi, Barangay Ginebra's Alex Crisano, and Dorian Peña of San Miguel Beer.

The Senate gave the immigration bureau 30 days from the time it threw the case to the BI last week to institute deportation proceedings. The deadline falls on Sept. 12.

"I just don't know if we still have time but we will try to meet that deadline set by the Senate," Gutierrez said.

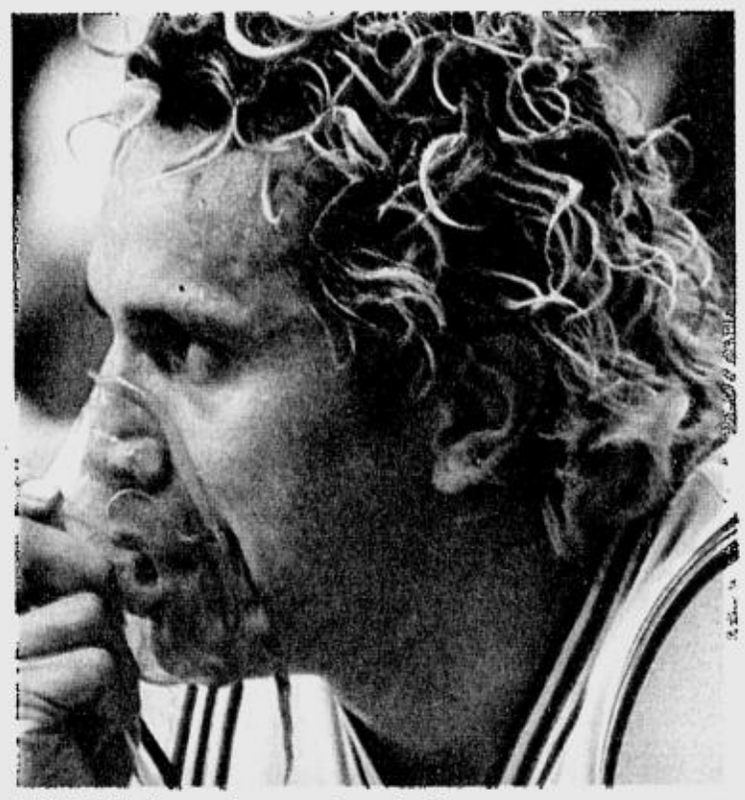
The DOJ first has to revoke its confirmation of the citizenship of the players before the Bureau of Immigration could deport them.

Gutierrez said they would look into the evidence, particularly the birth certificates of the players' parents. One of the parents had to be a Filipino for their son to get a Filipino citizenship, she added.

Gutierrez also said that, unless somebody protests, the DOJ legal staff usually approves citizenship applications if the applicant's papers are in order.

Once the justice department cancels the citizenship of the Fil-fors, a BI committee, composed of five lawyers, would be formed and immediately start deportation proceedings against the Fil-fors.

Meanwhile, Talk N Text has sent representatives to the Tonga Islands and Los Angeles, United States to dig up evidence that Taulava has Filipino roots.



TAULAVA: Proper documents coming? AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Stags, Knights eye semis berth

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—SSC-R vs Letran (Jrs)
2 p.m.—SSC-R vs Letran (Srs)
4 p.m.—JRU vs SBC (Srs)
6 p.m.—JRU vs SBC (Jrs)

STANDINGS	W	L
SSC-R	8	4
Letran	8	4
JRU	7	5
Mapua	7	5
SBC	6	6
UPHR	5	7
CSB	4	8
PCU	3	9

A SHAKEUP on top of the standings is expected when the heavyweights clash in the NCAA basketball tournament today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Tournament leaders Letran and San Sebastian tangle at 2 p.m. before Final Four aspirants Jose Rizal and San Beda College mix it up in the other senior match.

Sharing the lead at 8-4, the Knights and the defending champion Stags collide for the right to claim the first semifinal seat.

The Heavy Bombers, who have seven wins and five setbacks, will try to inch closer to a Final Four berth while the Lions hope to get back on the winning track and boost their chances of making the next round.

The JRU-SBC duel is set at 4 p.m.

The Red Lions dropped their fourth straight match in the second round against the Cardinals, 64-63, Wednesday.

As it is, the Lions have to sweep their remaining games and pray that the Bombers and Mapua Cardinals stop winning.

Otherwise, it would be another disappointing season for the Mendiola-based dribblers, who last reached the 1997 NCAA Finals only to lose the championship to the Stags.

The Stags remain on course for a fourth straight Finals appearance. SSC won the last two years at the expense of the Heavy Bombers and the College of St. Benilde Blazers.

The Cardinals are expected to silently cheer for the Bombers since a San Beda defeat would strengthen their bid for a Final Four berth. *June Navarro*

Lightning strikes twice, shocks Ateneo, La Salle

From page A25

tightened its defenses and bulldozed its way to a 54-33 lead.

NU posted its biggest lead at 56-36 before Ateneo, led by Wesley Gonzales, trimmed it to 68-58.

Not only did the Bulldogs snap a 10-game losing streak to the Eagles, NU also stopped Ateneo's eight-game winning run while avenging its 57-63 first round loss on July 26.

NU last beat Ateneo, 72-69, on Aug. 15, 1998 at the Loyola Gym.

Earlier, the Ateneo Eaglets crushed the Bullpups, 118-76, for a league-leading 9-1 record. NU dropped to 0-10.

Scores:

Second Game (Srs)

NU 76—Tolentino 24, Mendoza 19, Bagulon 14, Cajayon 10, Miclat 7, Malcontento 2, Catamora C 0, Mollena 0, Balijon 0.

ATENEO 62—Gonzales 18, Membrere 11, Tenorio 5, Alvarez 7, Bugia 6, Intal 5, Tiu 3, Kramer 2, Escalona 2.

Quarters: 21-19, 38-31, 54-33, 76-62.

Third Game (Srs)

UP 80—Cruz 16, David 15, Reyes 14, Cervantes 14, Almeda 14, Ibanes 4, Tablque 3, Buyco 3, Bornancin 0.

LA SALLE 70—Cardona 14, Casio 12, Tang 10, Ramos 10, Gaco 8, Yeo 5, Aquino 2, Cabatu 1, Benitez 0, Walsham 0.

Quarters: 11-10, 37-28, 55-50, 80-70.

Ricky's resonant reason

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

LET'S put it this way. You build a corporation with two others. That means the three of you own the corporation. To ensure equality, each one puts the same amount of money into the corporation.

All decisions have to be unanimous.

One no means three nos.

One yes means three yeses.

When everything is finally in place, the next move is to hire a manager.

The manager then runs the show. Basically, he enforces policies you have laid down. He can make decisions without consulting anyone of you. But in so doing, he has to answer for consequences in case his decision falters.

To recap, as investors, all three of you own the corporation. As such, all three of you can do anything you want with your corporation within the bounds of law.

You can fire your manager for loss of confidence anytime because, as common sense dictates, he works for you at your pleasure.

The manager can leave anytime he wants to because, as common sense dictates, he works in a free society.

Having said that, let's go to the core of this piece—the PBA existing very much like a corporation.

Like the three owners of the corporation cited above, team owners also own the PBA—San Miguel Beer, Talk 'N Text, Purefoods, Red Bull, Coca-Cola, Alaska, Ginebra San Miguel and FedEx. The team owners have a manager they call commissioner.

The similarity ends there.

The PBA has a character totally distinct from the run-of-the-mill corporation.

Unlike the manager of a run-of-the-mill corporation, the PBA commissioner has a power that carries with it seemingly natural police powers. So, aside from imposing discipline on and subjecting players (employees?) to punishment for their misdeeds, perceived or otherwise, the commissioner can also reprimand, punish and even exact fines on his own bosses.

Thus, when a player does rough housing tactics during a game, expect him to be called to the commissioner's office the next morning. He could get a reprimand, get himself suspended or, worst, be fined.

When a team owner hits a league format perceived as flawed or calls officiating spotty, he, too, draws a corresponding punishment from the commissioner.

It's all very fine. But only if the commissioner is really that good.

The NBA has survived 57 years with the commissioner system.

The PBA has survived 27 years with the commissioner system.

The NBA begins its 58th season in October; even before it could blast off, the league remains strong as ever. You know the reason: Commissioner Stern.

The PBA began its 28th season in March and, six months into the journey, it isn't as strong as it used to be. You know the reason: Commissioner Eala.

Ricky Vargas, the Talk 'N Text governor to the PBA board, has a suggestion for the league worth studying. He wants team owners to band themselves together and find ways on how to save the sinking ship that is the PBA.

"Once and for all, they should meet and talk," said Vargas, with whom I had the happy occasion to play golf during the 2nd Tito Eduque Memorial Cup on Tuesday at Aguinaldo. "If it's them talking, I think we would achieve a more concrete direction, which should be their chief concern anyway, being the owners of the league themselves."

Sounds good to me.

Mostly, teams are represented in the PBA board by persons they call governors, who are not usually the team owners.

Funny, but mostly, the word of the governors is not final. Or, their decisions are not immediately binding; usually, they need validation from team owners for their decisions to be executory. The practice is for each governor to clear matters with the big boss (team owner) before the fate of a league policy is resolved.

Vargas' suggestion will not mean the board of governors will be abolished. No. Team owners are busy as bees. Because they do a lot of things, they need others to do other jobs for them. Otherwise, they'll end up nervous wrecks sooner than they expected.

But there is immediacy in Ricky's idea, which is that team owners should help sort out the now-myriad problems of the league. It is imperative for them to discuss head-on issues now buffeting the league with the power of "Harurot." After all, they own the PBA. The league's success is their success. The league's failure is their failure.

That simple.

Tuñacao raring for WBC title date with Indon

MALCOLM Tuñacao works out under a new trainer and in an unfamiliar venue in Manila as he hones up for his attempt at the vacant World Boxing Council (WBC) International superflyweight title on Sept. 6 at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City.

The 25-year-old former WBC flyweight champion, trying to regain his old form after a nine-month layoff, has started training away from Cebu for the first time in his four-year career after arriving Monday with new trainer Justiniano Velasquez.

Tuñacao, who will face Indonesian No. 1 superfly Ali Rohmad for the title, will be sparring with superbantamweight Alex Escaner and other heavier fighters at the Elorde Gym in Sucat, Parañaque.

"I'm already in great condition and ready to rumble," said Tuñacao, now the WBC No. 4, in Cebuano yesterday.

The 5-foot-7 Tuñacao improved his win-loss-draw record to 14-1-2 with 10 KOs after knocking out his last foe, Japanese Kazuyoshi Niki, in the third round last Nov. 18 in Kokura, Japan.

"He almost always kills himself in training, so I'm sure he's still the best Filipino hope for a world title," said Velasquez, a former trainer at the famed ALA Boxing Gym in Cebu. *Rey Danseco*

RP quintet foils gritty Malaysians

HONG KONG—Defending champion Philippines unleashed a whirlwind finish to rout Malaysia, 82-67, Wednesday at the start of its campaign in the 12th Super Kung Sheung Heyuan Cup basketball championship at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium here.

The Filipinos, backed by Cebuana Lhuillier, dropped an 11-0 bomb in the last two minutes to finally pull away from the pesky Malaysians.

Jean Marc Pingris triggered the closing salvo with a slam dunk from a pinpoint assist by Celino Cruz as the Filipinos asserted their mastery over the Malaysians, whom they beat by the same margin (96-81) in topping the Southeast Asia Basketball Association men's championship in Kuala Lumpur last week.

Ex-pro Cris Calimag followed up Pingris' slam with two inside baskets while Cruz nailed a short jumper and a triple to pad the Filipinos' precarious 71-67 lead to the delight of hundreds of Filipino OFWs who paid HK$50 (P350) to watch the game.

RP-Cebuana Lhuillier's next assignment Thursday is Thailand, which was beaten by Malaysia (73-52) in the inaugurals on Tuesday.

Gary David again lived up to his gunner's role, winding up with a game-high 25 points, 18 of them in the first half which ended with the Filipinos ahead, 48-39.

The 6-foot-6 Pingris, whose Allen Iverson-inspired locks made him an instant hit here, added 12 points, 8 rebounds and 4 blocks in only 18 minutes of action.

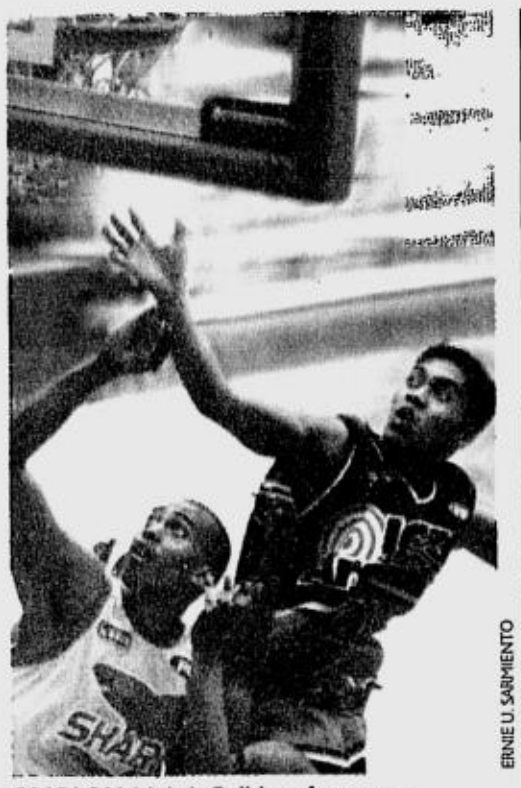
Others who stepped up for Coach Aric del Rosario were Nelbert Omolon, who poured in nine points in the first half, ex-pros Dennis Madrid and Richard Melencio, who chipped in eight each, and rookie Loreto Soriano, who contributed 7.

Scores:

RP-CEBUANA LHUILLIER 82—David 25, Pingris 12, Omolon 9, Madrid 8, Melencio 8, Soriano 7, Calimag 8, Cruz 5, Oreta 2, Franco 1, Menor 0.

MALAYSIA 67—C. Chai 11, K. Chow 10, YS Ng 9, K. Tan 8, H. Ong 7, Satyaseel 6, C. Chin 5, YK Lim 4, H. Loh 3, T. Ang 2, W. Koh 2, S. Kok 0.

Quarters: 23-26, 48-39, 58-57, 82-67.



ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

OMOLON (right): Solid performance.

Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

Bonifacio College XI scores 13-0 rout

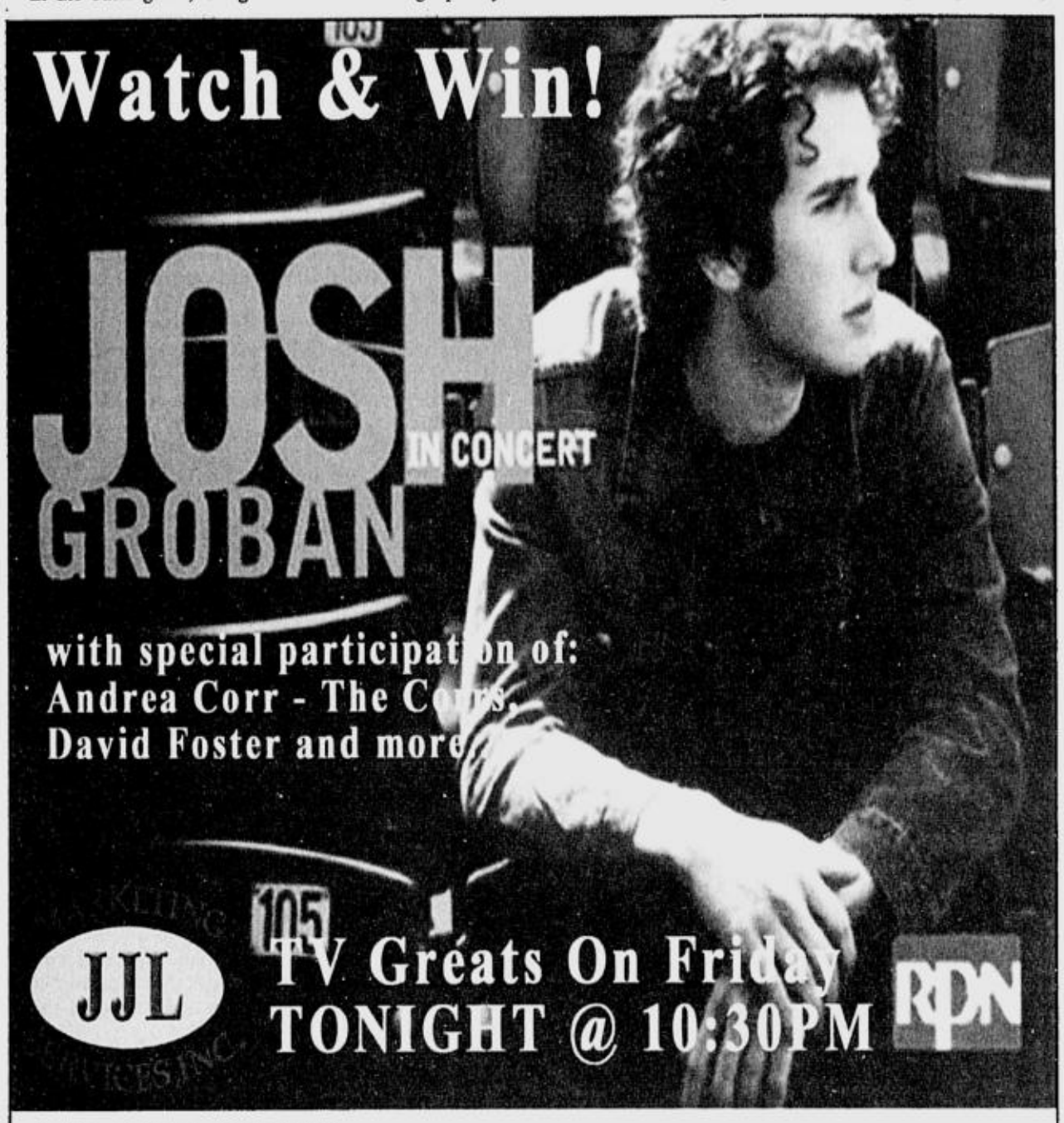
DIPOLOG CITY—Defending champion Andres Bonifacio College banked on the scoring prowess of Marlo Maglangit and Bryan Gumila to rip Miputak School, 13-0, recently in the Dipolog-Zamboanga del Norte Coke Go for Goal under-16 football tourney at the ABC field.

In the other game, Olingan Central crushed Dipolog Pilot Demonstration School, 8-0. The tourney is sanctioned by the Philippine Football Federation and sponsored by Coca-Cola Export Corp.

Meanwhile, the Legazpi-Albay Football Association tourney unwraps today with 14 teams seeing action at the Legazpi City field in Rawis.

The entries are Pag-Asa (Rawis, Grogon and Pawa), Aquinas University, Divine Word College, Dynamic Computer High, Tabaco Central, Tabaco South, Homapon, Sto. Domingo Albay, Ligao City, Banquerohan, BU and Cabangan.

PFF president Rene Z. Adad will be guest of honor at the opening ceremony.



Junio jubilant after fine rally

Forges semis clash with Asuncion

JAIME Junio fashioned out perhaps the most stunning fightback in the JVC Open Badminton Championships thus far, rallying from a 1-10 deficit in the first game and completing a 15-12, 15-4 upset win over third ranked Rodel Bartolome yesterday to barge into the semifinal round of the men's singles of the elite class.

Outhit by Bartolome in the early going, the 23-year-old Junio, a PE graduate of UP-Diliman and member of the RP team since 1997, suddenly came alive and racked up point after point while yielding only two the rest of the way for the victory that drew cheers from the big crowd at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati.

But Junio, who also bundled out fancied Prospero Aguilar in the round of 32, found himself ranged against second seed Kennevic Asuncion.

Asuncion, raring to reclaim the crown he lost to Ian Piencenaves last year, needed only 20 minutes to trounce UST's Alfredo Mailon Jr., 15-2, 15-6, even as doubles partners Piencenaves and Arolas Amahit arranged a semis clash in the upper bracket of the centerpiece event of the annual championships sponsored by electronics giant JVC.

Piencenaves, bucking a nagging back injury, ended Wilson Frias' amazing run of victories with a clinical 15-4, 15-10 triumph, while Amahit went through some anxious moments before salvaging a 4-15, 15-9, 15-7 victory over another giant-killer Lloyd Escoses.

ASUNCION

The distaff side likewise saw back-to-back defending champion Kennie Asuncion and No. 2 Alma Ledesma on course for a title showdown after disposing of their respective rivals with relative ease in the quarterfinal round.

Kennie Asuncion outclassed Alana May Olavides, 11-1, 11-2, while Ledesma whipped Amanda Carpo, 11-0, 11-3.

Semifinal matches pit Kennie Asuncion against Melody Villaceran, who ousted Katheen Anasco, 11-3, 13-11, 11-6; while Ledesma clashes with Irene Chiu, who came through with an impressive 11-0, 11-0 whitewashing of Andrea Chu.

Big battles seen in Samsung golf

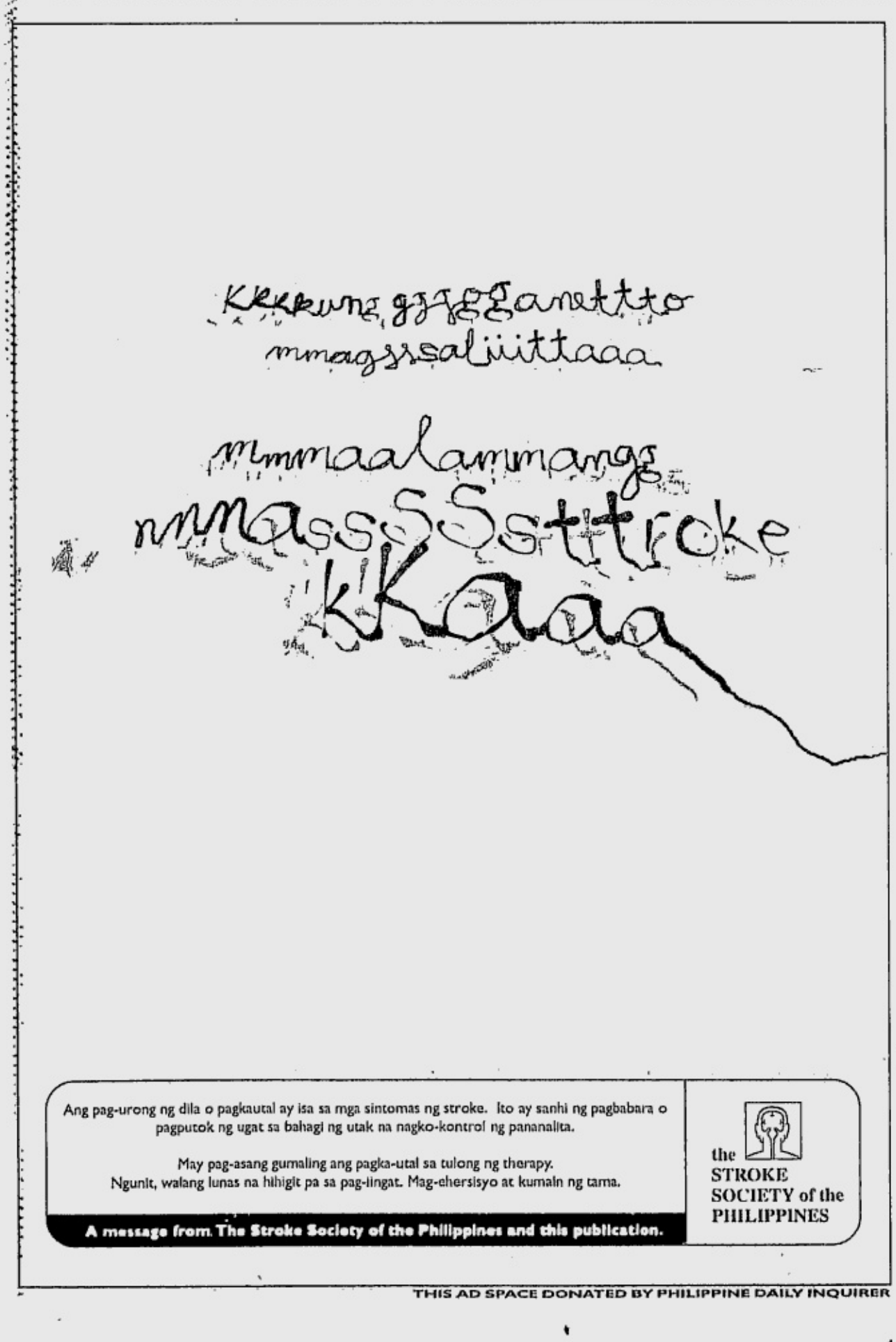
CAGAYAN DE ORO—With all the region's best shotmakers in the field of 200 players, fierce battles in all the handicap levels loom in the Samsung Amateur Tour and Putting Challenge tomorrow and Sunday at the scenic Pueblo de Oro Golf and Country Club course here. Tee-off time is 6 a.m.

The weekend event, which serves as the third leg of the Samsung Tour, has drawn the biggest field in the series so far, with the siblings of the country's golfing superstar Frankie Miñoza heading the roster.

Aside from their Del Monte teammates— Tristan and Tommy Tabanas, Joel Opaco, Lino Retuerto, Ondoy Mondilla, Romeo Jaraula, Jett Plete and Yoyong Velez—the Miñozas will be facing opposition in the championship flight from a Davao contingent led by former national amateur finalist Louie Dacudao.

Co-sponsoring the second season of the Samsung Tour are Mario's Restaurant, Wilson, Gatorade, Tokyo Tokyo, Microtel, Custom Clubmakers and Dunlop Golf with radio station Killer Bee, Citylite 88.3, Wave 89.1, 89.9, 99.5 RT and 103.5 K-Lite as media partners.

Boy Blue Ocampo, who heads the organizing Professional Sports Management Group, said they just had to accommodate more entries in their desire to choose the best bets possible for the grand finals.



SPORTS nabdle

Bong Barrameda VOL. I NO. 049

For Pete's sake

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1 > 3 Pts.
❑ True /❑ False: The real first name of Pete Sampras is Peter.

2 > 5 Pts.
Sampras holds the men's all-time record for most career grand slam singles titles. How many?
❑ 13
❑ 14

3 > 7 Pts.
Sampras is famous for his 'running' what?
❑ Backhand
❑ Forehand
❑ Overhead smash

4 > 10 Pts.
What's the only major tournament that Sampras has never won?
❑ Australian Open
❑ French Open
❑ US Open

5 > 20 Pts.
Between 1993 and 2000, Sampras totally reigned supreme at Wimbledon—all except in 1996. Who beat Pete that year?
❑ Andre Agassi
❑ Michael Stich
❑ Stefan Edberg
❑ Richard Krajicek

6 > 25 Pts.
Who does Sampras say is his tennis idol?
❑ Rod Laver
❑ Arthur Ashe
❑ Fred Perry
❑ Roy Emerson

7 > 30 Pts.
Pete's fatigue: Sampras suffers from what hereditary type of anemia that causes him to tire faster than others, especially when it's hot?

ANSWERS/ A31

Eduque Cup duel ends in deadlock

THEY battled through rain, flood, mud, lightning and thunder, but in the end, they failed to settle the issue. Thus, the annual duel between golfers from Triple V and Media ended Tuesday in a deadlock for only the second time in its 17-year history.

The second Tito Eduque Memorial Cup Golf tournament was shortened to nine holes when heavy rains rendered some finishing holes of the Aguinaldo Golf Club unplayable.

Media and Triple V emerged in an improbable tie at 317 strokes apiece.

The annual event, actually the 17th edition of the Triple V-Media Golf Classic, was held in memory of the late former national basketball coach and chair of the Triple V. The tournament was also part of the 26th anniversary celebration of the restaurant group, which includes Kamayan, Saisaki, Dads and Triple V Express.

Norman Madrid was overall champion for Triple V with a net 30 while Jun Nonato was overall winner in Media with a net 29.

Arnold Segundo was runner-up for Triple V, also with a net 30, losing out to Madrid in the tiebreak. Bart Puzon was third with a net 31.

Rounding up the Triple V scorers were Buji Coscolluela (31), Virgil Villavicencio (31), Rene Ligon (32), Mingging Ortiz (32), Ting Coscolluela (33), Freddie Villanueva (33) and Dave Brodett (34).

Ding Marcelo topped Media's class A with a 34, winning by countback over the INQUIRER's Ernie Gonzales. Al Mendoza was third with a 36.

Rey Eñano ruled Class B with a 30 while Anthony Suntay took second with a 34 after beating Dodo Catacutan, who also had a 34, into third place. Pompeyo Navarro was Class C winner with 30 followed by Butch Marco with 32 and Manny Angeles with 34.

La Salle chessers up

DE LA SALLE and University of the Philippines showed the way after the first phase of the men's and women's chess tournaments in the 66th University Athletic Association of the Philippines.

La Salle, with the unbeaten John Paul Gomez in Board 1, took the men's lead with 21.0 points after blanking Far Eastern, 4-0, and beating UE, 2.5-1.5, over the weekend at the UE campus in Manila.

The Green Archers are 3.5 points ahead of UP.

UP was ahead in the women's side with 21.0 points, 3.0 ahead of La Salle. The Lady Maroons stopped the Lady Archers, 3.5-1.5, Saturday.

OLYMPIC QUALIFYING

Brazil, Argentina fives fall; US wins

SAN JUAN—Highly rated Brazil were beaten 72-70 by host nation Puerto Rico and knocked out of contention for next year's Athens games at the America's Olympic qualifying tournament on Wednesday.

Brazil now have a 2-4 record and are out of Saturday's semifinals.

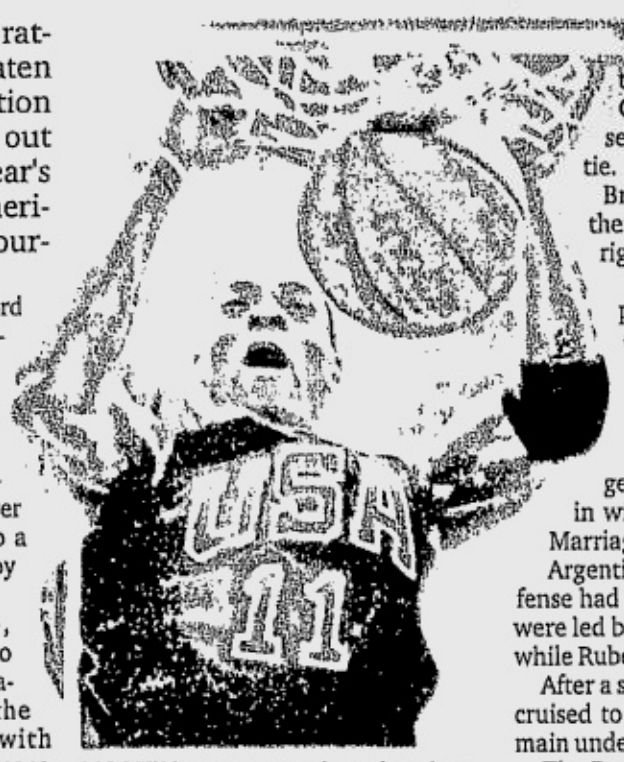
Only the top three teams from the tournament advance to next year's Athens Olympics.

In another upset on Wednesday, world championship silver medalists Argentina slumped to a surprise 97-92 defeat by Venezuela.

The United States (6-0), who overcame a slow start to beat Mexico 96-69, and Canada (4-2), who sneaked past the Dominican Republic 78-75 with two late Steve Nash free throws, have qualified for the semifinals.

Despite Wednesday's defeat, Argentina (3-3) have also qualified for the semifinals and now play the Dominican Republic (1-5) in their final second round match on Thursday.

Brazil play Mexico (2-4), the US meet Puerto Rico (4-2) and Canada will play Venezuela (2-4) on Thursday.



MARTIN scores unmolested against the Mexicans. AP

Brazil, who finished eighth at last year's world championships in Indianapolis, were eliminated from medal contention when the hosts rallied for their two-point victory.

Puerto Rico trailed by as much as eight points in the third quarter, but Eddie Casiano's layup with 19 seconds left snapped a 70-70 tie.

Brazil's Anderson Varejao then missed a three-pointer right at the buzzer.

Elias Ayuso scored 19 points for the Puerto Ricans.

Venezuela's Oscar Torres had a huge game for his side, scoring 20 points to lead them past the Argentines. Victor Diaz chipped in with 15 points while Miguel Marriaga added 14.

Argentina, whose balanced offense had pushed the US on Tuesday, were led by Andres Nocini's 17 points while Ruben Wolkowisky added 16.

After a slow start, the United States cruised to victory over Mexico to remain undefeated at the tournament.

Tim Duncan's 16 points and six rebounds led the US, while Allen Iverson chipped in 13.

"We've got to come out the same way we do in the second half," Iverson told reporters in reference to their early game problems. "We have to play with some sense of urgency. That's something we need to be concerned about." *AP*

Bird fires Isiah Thomas as Pacers coach

INDIANAPOLIS—Isiah Thomas was fired Wednesday as coach of the Indiana Pacers, a surprise move by new boss Larry Bird that came only two months before the start of the season.

Thomas, an NBA Hall of Famer, led the Pacers into the playoffs in all three of his seasons, but they were knocked out in the first round each year.

"After evaluating the basketball operations, I detected the team's chemistry wasn't what it should be," Bird said.

Thomas was with the US basketball team at the Olympic qualifying tournament in Puerto Rico. *AP*

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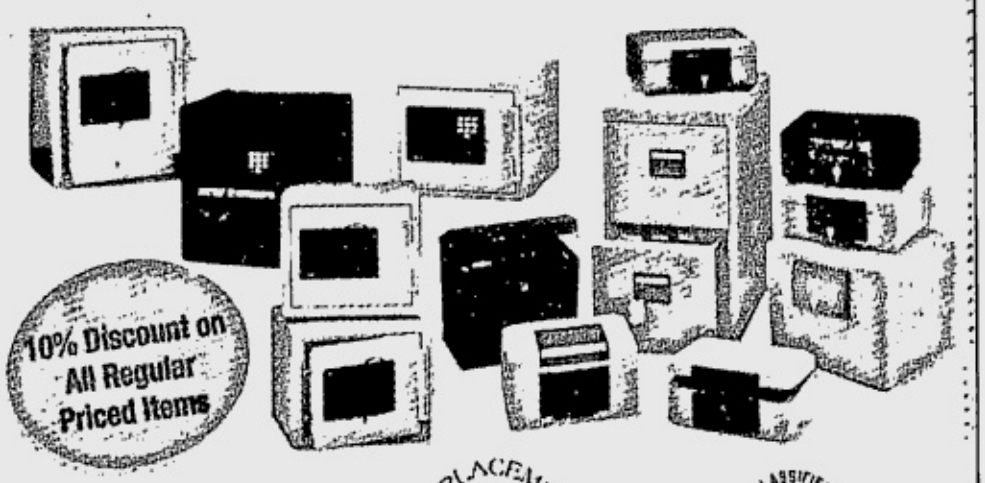

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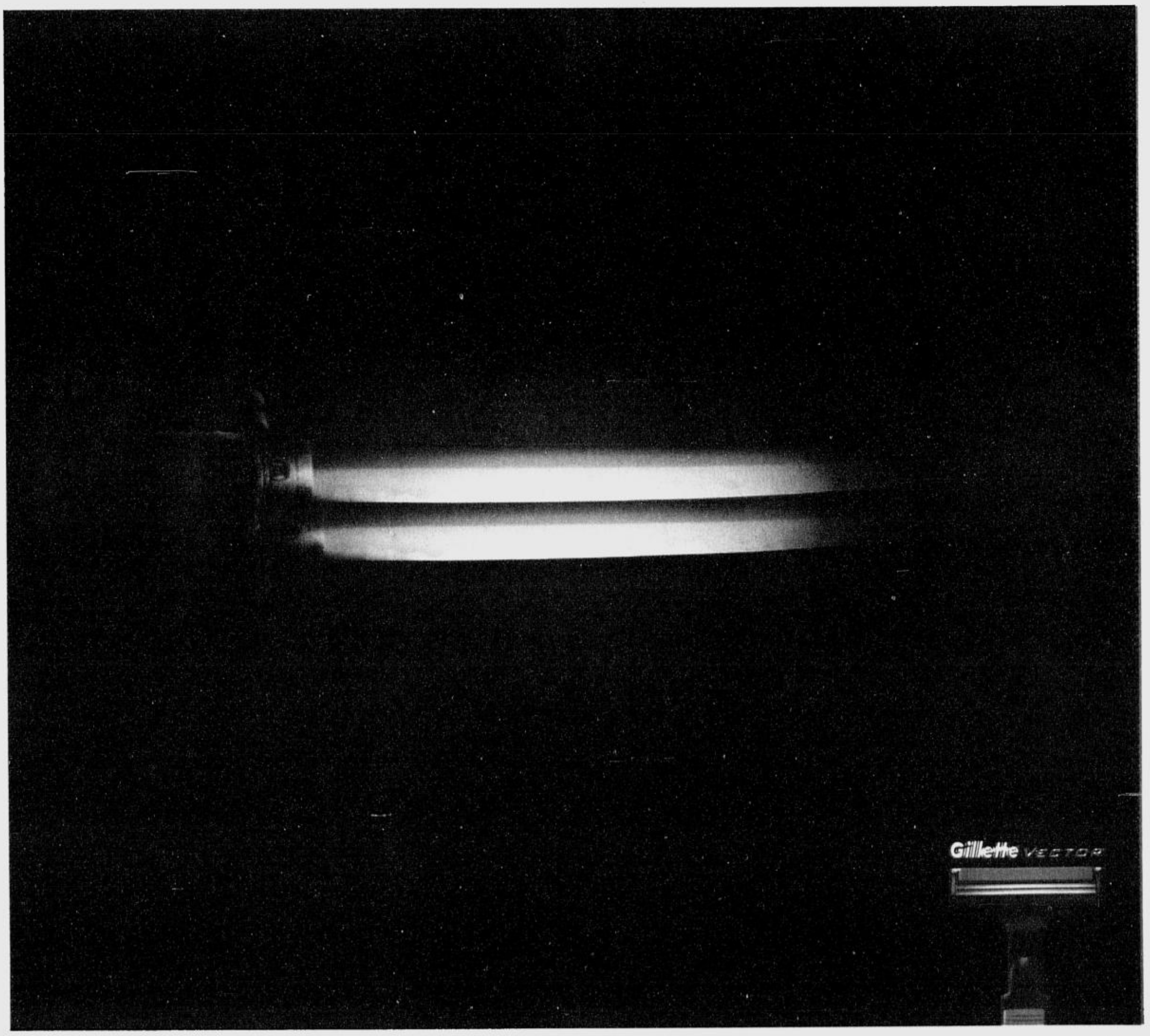


Bata, Django vie in Masters

PHILIPPINE pride Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante will be competing against 14 world-renowned players when the 2003 World Pool Masters opens today at the Hotel Zuiderduin, Egmond Aan Zee in Holland.

The 49-year-old Reyes faces Tom Storm of Sweden while Bustamante meets Nick Van Den Berg of the Netherlands in the opening round.

Reyes, the 1999 world champion, finished second in the Pechacuer 9-ball in Hollywood, Los Angeles, California and the Big Apple challenge in Queens, New York and won the just concluded 2nd Annual Gabriel's Las Vegas in Riviera Casino.

Bustamante, on the other hand, ruled the International Challenge of Champions in Mohegan Casino in Connecticut, USA.

Others in the field are reigning world pool champ Thorsten Hohmann, Ralf "Kaiser" Souquet of Germany, Canadian 9-ball new title-holder Alex "The Lion" Pagulayan, Steve Davis of England, Mika "Iceman" Immonen of Finland, Hui-Kai Hsia of Chinese-Taipei, Niclas Bergendorf of Sweden, Tony "Tornado" Drago of Malta, Niels "Terminator" Feijen, Ricko Dicks and Alex Lely of the Netherlands.

Bustamante won the Masters in 1998 and 2001, ranking second to four-time champion Souquet (1994, 1996, 2000, 2002). Strickland topped the 1997 edition while Lely prevailed in 1999.

The champion of the race-to-8 event will get $20,000 while the runner-up gets $10,000. Every participant is guaranteed to take home money. *With a report from NM Marlon Bernardino*

MILO MARATHON

A running field like no other in MM leg

THE MILO Marathon is expected to mark another milestone when the Metro Manila elimination race begins Sunday in front of the Quirino Grandstand with a field of some 14,000 runners.

Originally set on July 27, the NCR elims were canceled due to the mutiny staged by rebel soldiers at the Oakwood in Makati City. But that proved to be a blessing in disguise as the roster has now bloated to record proportions from an original cast of 12,396 runners after registration ended on July 22.

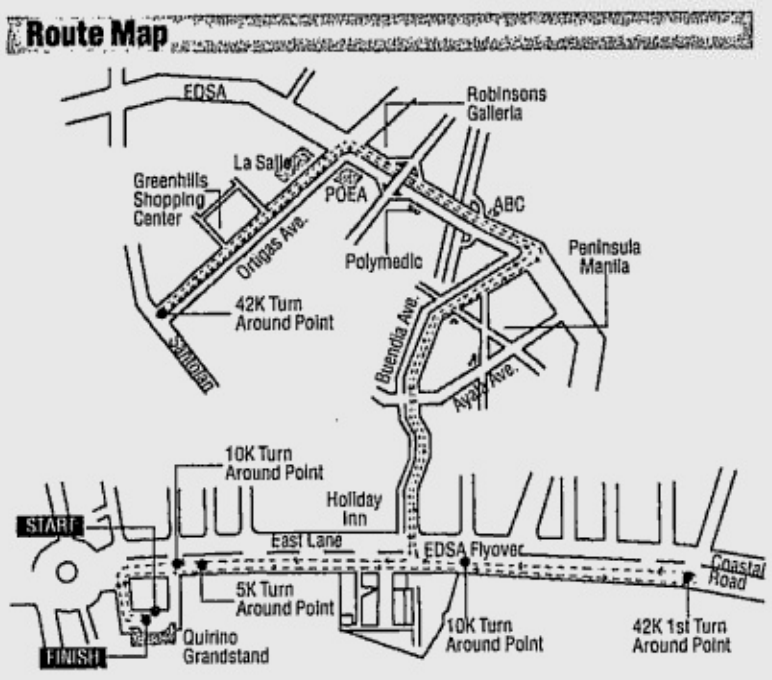
"We're expecting the biggest gathering of runners in the history of the marathon in the Philippines. This will top everything that has been staged in the past, and we at Milo are very proud of this achievement," said Milo sports executive Pat Goc-Ong.

With only 27 participants during its inaugural year in 1976, the Milo Marathon has grown to be one of the country's premier sporting spectacles.

But it is not only the runners, who provide the drama on the race course.

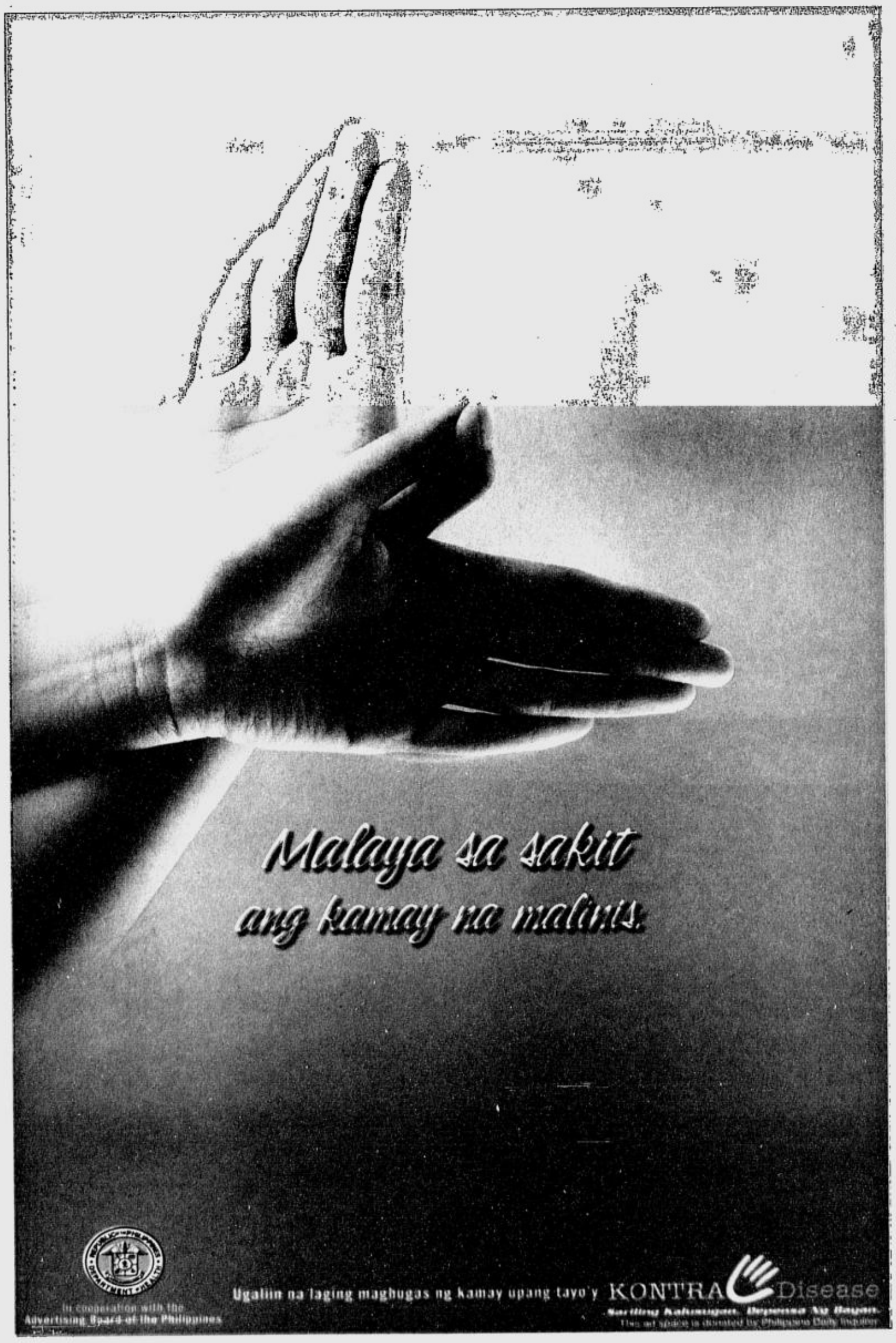
The logistics required to stage a marathon of this magnitude will also simply leave anyone awestruck.

Consider the following requirements: P1,500 road delineators, 600 portable steel fences, 16 portalets, 3 MMDA man basket trucks, three 9"-digit finish line display clocks, 3 electronic timer printers, computers and printers, 20,000 T-shirts, 20 motorcycle cops and more than 600 traffic and security operatives from the Philippine National Police and MMDA.



If those are not enough to boggle the mind, then consider the following additional logistics: one hot air balloon, two sets of 5,000-watt sound system, 40 tents, 200 chairs, 60 tables, 18 water stations, 70,000 drinking cups, 9,000 liters of drinking water, 50 blocks of ice, 60 communication operatives, six ambulances, nurses and eight doctors, 320 race officials and marshals and three K-9 dogs.

"These are what make the Milo Marathon a premier sporting spectacle that will be hard to equal, let alone topple. It has been a part of the Filipino running culture that has been deeply embedded into our consciousness for decades," said veteran race organizer Rudy Biscocho.



SPORTSWATCH

BLAZE RALLYE
Team Ultron's Ivan Isada and co-driver Art Guevarra in their Honda Civic Vtex negotiate a rocky stretch during the Blaze Rallye Montalban last Saturday. They placed third in the NRC 19 category.

Unigames set at DLSU-Dasmariñas

THE UNIVERSITY Games (Unigames), an annual athletic competition for tertiary schools nationwide, is set to unfold Oct. 19-26 at the De La Salle University-Dasmariñas grounds. More than 45 colleges and universities have confirmed their participation in the event. Bro. Rolly Dizon, former president of De La Salle University and currently chair of the Commission on Higher Education (Ched), is the brains behind Unigames. To be contested in the men and women's divisions are basketball, volleyball, table tennis, lawn tennis, football, badminton, swimming, chess, taekwondo and track and field. Schools are allowed to choose specific events that they will compete in.

Patakbong Pinoy starts Sept. 28

A TOTAL of P12,000 in cash prizes and trophies are at stake when the Patakbong Pinoy kicks off on Sept. 28 in Manila. The short-distance running event backed by Beam Toothpaste and Zesto Juice Drinks is being positioned as a family and youth-centered activity with five more legs on tap. The running series will also go to key cities in Laguna, Batangas, Cavite, Zambales and Bulacan. Patakbong Pinoy is open to individuals 18 years old and above. Procedures, requirements and registration centers will be announced on a later date

Espinola posts squash upset

RICKY Espinola stunned veteran Arnel Begornia, 3-9, 9-3, 9-4, 9-5, in the "open" finals of the Milo/SRAP circuits' third leg at the Makati Sports Club courts. It was the first time in more than two years that a player other than Edgar Balleber and Begornia won the open title in the series organized by the Squash Rackets Association of the Philippines and sponsored by Milo. Robert Bachmann and Rodney Ee shared honors with Espinola by bagging the B and C crowns. Bachmann ripped Samuel Alas, 9-3, 9-5, 9-1, in class B while Ee blasted Patrick Jinon, 9-0,9-0, 9-2, in class C. Joboy Antipala, Allan Tantoco and Nonoy Alayon finished third in the open, B and C classes, respectively. Antipala subdued Rodan Banquilay, 7-9, 9-4, 19-8, 9-2; Tantoco whipped JP Austria, 9-5, 9-4, 9-5; and Alayon toppled Errol Rara, 9-1, 9-3, 9-5.

San Beda leads Ang Liga football

THE SAN Beda Red Lions football team surged on top of the "Ang Liga" Wednesday after drawing with the Philippines Under-23 squad, 0-0, at home in Mendiola. SBC coach Ryan de la Cruz could have seen his booters take the lead in the 30th minute when National defender Rolly Perez brought down Dan 'The Bull' Padernal inside the box. Striker Vaughn Melendrez stepped up for the spot kick only to have U-23 keeper Jay Archie Marcaida prevent the goal. RP coach Aris Caslib's disciplined back four kept the Red Lions at bay with Jervic Italia, Matthew Jaucian, Rolly Perez and Joe Dignadice holding fort. San Beda, with a 4-win, 1-loss card and 15 goals scored, leads the nine-team field with 13 points, followed by RP U23 (2 wins, 2 draws) for eight points.

Barotac Boys coming to Manila

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Bata, Django vie in Masters

PHILIPPINE pride Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante will be competing against 14 world-renowned players when the 2003 World Pool Masters opens today at the Hotel Zuiderduin, Egmond Aan Zee in Holland.

The 49-year-old Reyes faces Tom Storm of Sweden while Bustamante meets Nick Van Den Berg of the Netherlands in the opening round.

Reyes, the 1999 world champion, finished second in the Pechacuer 9-ball in Hollywood, Los Angeles, California and the Big Apple challenge in Queens, New York and won the just concluded 2nd Annual Gabriel's Las Vegas in Riviera Casino.

Bustamante, on the other hand, ruled the International Challenge of Champions in Mohegan Casino in Connecticut, USA.

Others in the field are reigning world pool champ Thorsten Hohmann, Ralf "Kaiser" Souquet of Germany, Canadian 9-ball new title-holder Alex "The Lion" Pagulayan, Steve Davis of England, Mika "Iceman" Immonen of Finland, Hui-Kai Hsia of Chinese-Taipei, Niclas Bergendorf of Sweden, Tony "Tornado" Drago of Malta, Niels "Terminator" Feijen, Ricko Dicks and Alex Lely of the Netherlands.

Bustamante won the Masters in 1998 and 2001, ranking second to four-time champion Souquet (1994, 1996, 2000, 2002). Strickland topped the 1997 edition while Lely prevailed in 1999.

The champion of the race-to-8 event will get $20,000 while the runner-up gets $10,000. Every participant is guaranteed to take home money. *With a report from NM Marlon Bernardino*

MILO MARATHON

A running field like no other in MM leg

THE MILO Marathon is expected to mark another milestone when the Metro Manila elimination race begins Sunday in front of the Quirino Grandstand with a field of some 14,000 runners.

Originally set on July 27, the NCR elims were canceled due to the mutiny staged by rebel soldiers at the Oakwood in Makati City. But that proved to be a blessing in disguise as the roster has now bloated to record proportions from an original cast of 12,396 runners after registration ended on July 22.

"We're expecting the biggest gathering of runners in the history of the marathon in the Philippines. This will top everything that has been staged in the past, and we at Milo are very proud of this achievement," said Milo sports executive Pat Goc-Ong.

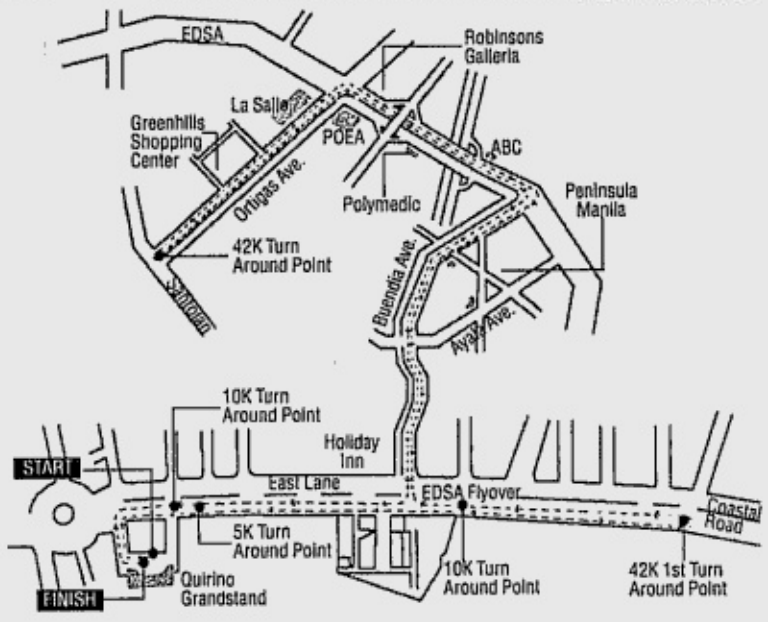
With only 27 participants during its inaugural year in 1976, the Milo Marathon has grown to be one of the country's premier sporting spectacles.

But it is not only the runners, who provide the drama on the race course.

The logistics required to stage a marathon of this magnitude will also simply leave anyone awestruck.

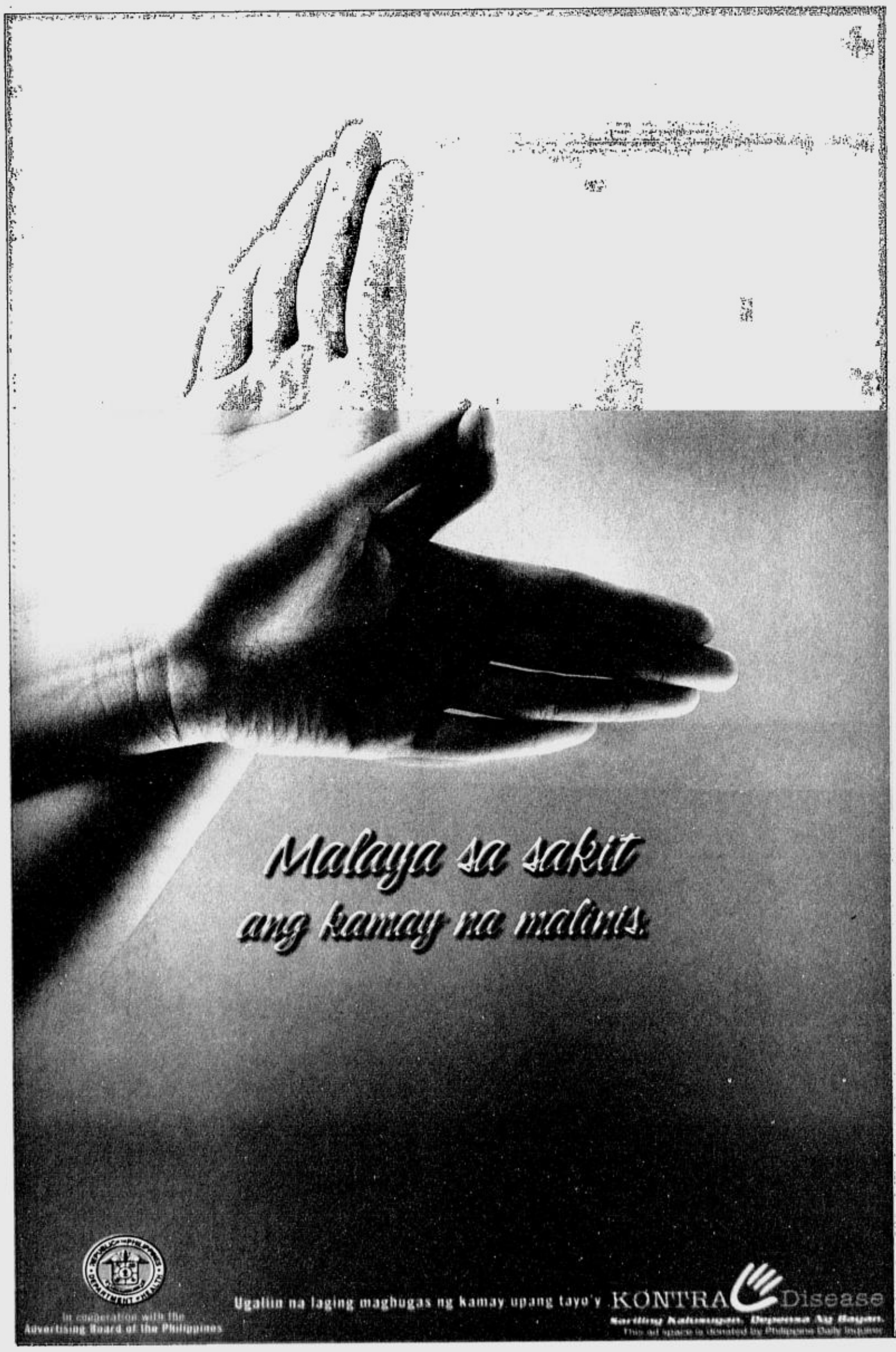
Consider the following requirements: P1,500 road delineators, 600 portable steel fences, 16 portalets, 3 MMDA man basket trucks, three 9"-digit finish line display clocks, 3 electronic timer printers, computers and printers, 20,000 T-shirts, 20 motorcycle cops and more than 600 traffic and security operatives from the Philippine National Police and MMDA.

Route Map



If those are not enough to boggle the mind, then consider the following additional logistics: one hot air balloon, two sets of 5,000-watt sound system, 40 tents, 200 chairs, 60 tables, 18 water stations, 70,000 drinking cups, 9,000 liters of drinking water, 50 blocks of ice, 60 communication operatives, six ambulances, nurses and eight doctors, 320 race officials and marshals and three K-9 dogs.

"These are what make the Milo Marathon a premier sporting spectacle that will be hard to equal, let alone topple. It has been a part of the Filipino running culture that has been deeply embedded into our consciousness for decades," said veteran race organizer Rudy Biscocho.



SPORTSWATCH

BLAZE RALLYE
Team Ultron's Ivan Isada and co-driver Art Guevarra in their Honda Civic Vtex negotiate a rocky stretch during the Blaze Rallye Montalban last Saturday. They placed third in the NRC 19 category.

Unigames set at DLSU-Dasmariñas

THE UNIVERSITY Games (Unigames), an annual athletic competition for tertiary schools nationwide, is set to unfold Oct. 19-26 at the De La Salle University-Dasmariñas grounds. More than 45 colleges and universities have confirmed their participation in the event. Bro. Rolly Dizon, former president of De La Salle University and currently chair of the Commission on Higher Education (Ched), is the brains behind Unigames. To be contested in the men and women's divisions are basketball, volleyball, table tennis, lawn tennis, football, badminton, swimming, chess, taekwondo and track and field. Schools are allowed to choose specific events that they will compete in.

Patakbong Pinoy starts Sept. 28

A TOTAL of P12,000 in cash prizes and trophies are at stake when the Patakbong Pinoy kicks off on Sept. 28 in Manila. The short-distance running event backed by Beam Toothpaste and Zesto Juice Drinks is being positioned as a family and youth-centered activity with five more legs on tap. The running series will also go to key cities in Laguna, Batangas, Cavite, Zambales and Bulacan. Patakbong Pinoy is open to individuals 18 years old and above. Procedures, requirements and registration centers will be announced on a later date

Espinola posts squash upset

RICKY Espinola stunned veteran Arnel Begornia, 3-9, 9-3, 9-4, 9-5, in the "open" finals of the Milo/SRAP circuits' third leg at the Makati Sports Club courts. It was the first time in more than two years that a player other than Edgar Balleber and Begornia won the open title in the series organized by the Squash Rackets Association of the Philippines and sponsored by Milo. Robert Bachmann and Rodney Ee shared honors with Espinola by bagging the B and C crowns. Bachmann ripped Samuel Alas, 9-3, 9-5, 9-1, in class B while Ee blasted Patrick Jinon, 9-0,9-0, 9-2, in class C. Joboy Antipala, Allan Tantoco and Nonoy Alayon finished third in the open, B and C classes, respectively. Antipala subdued Rodan Banquilay, 7-9, 9-4, 19-8, 9-2; Tantoco whipped JP Austria, 9-5, 9-4, 9-5; and Alayon toppled Errol Rara, 9-1, 9-3, 9-5.

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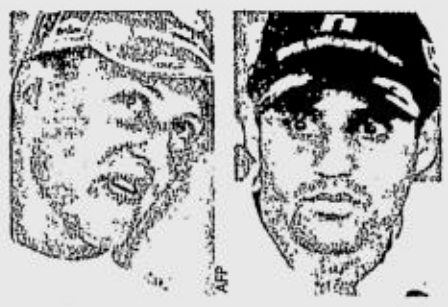

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SPORTS noodle

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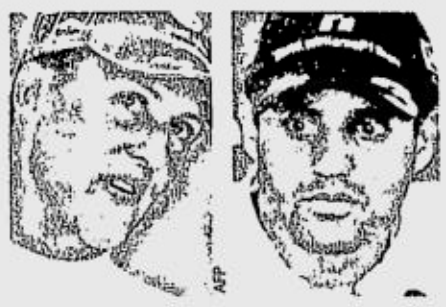

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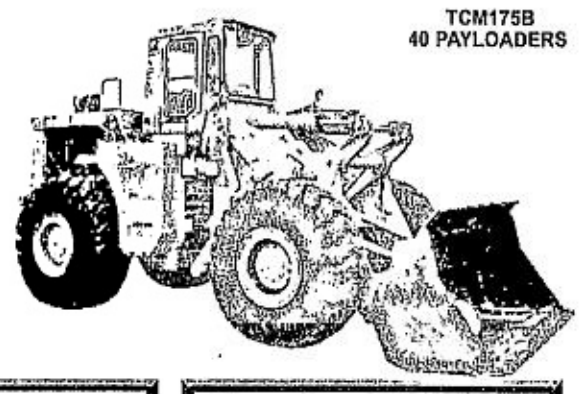

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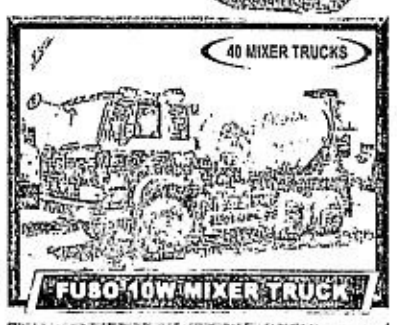

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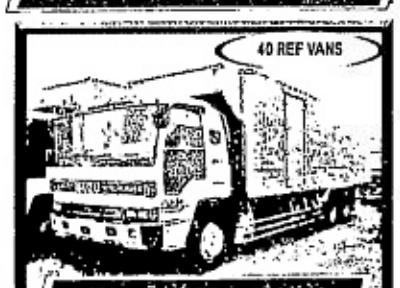

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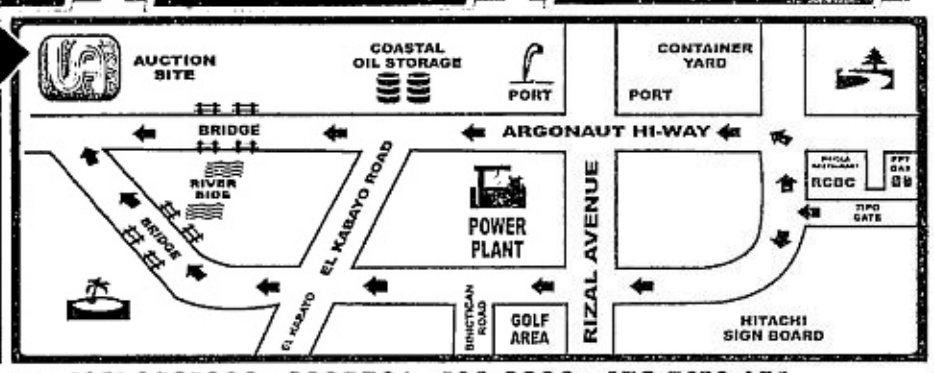

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SPORTS

Paragua ties for 2nd

FILIPINO International Master Mark Paragua finished joint second in the recent 2003 Quenca Rapid chess championships in Spain.

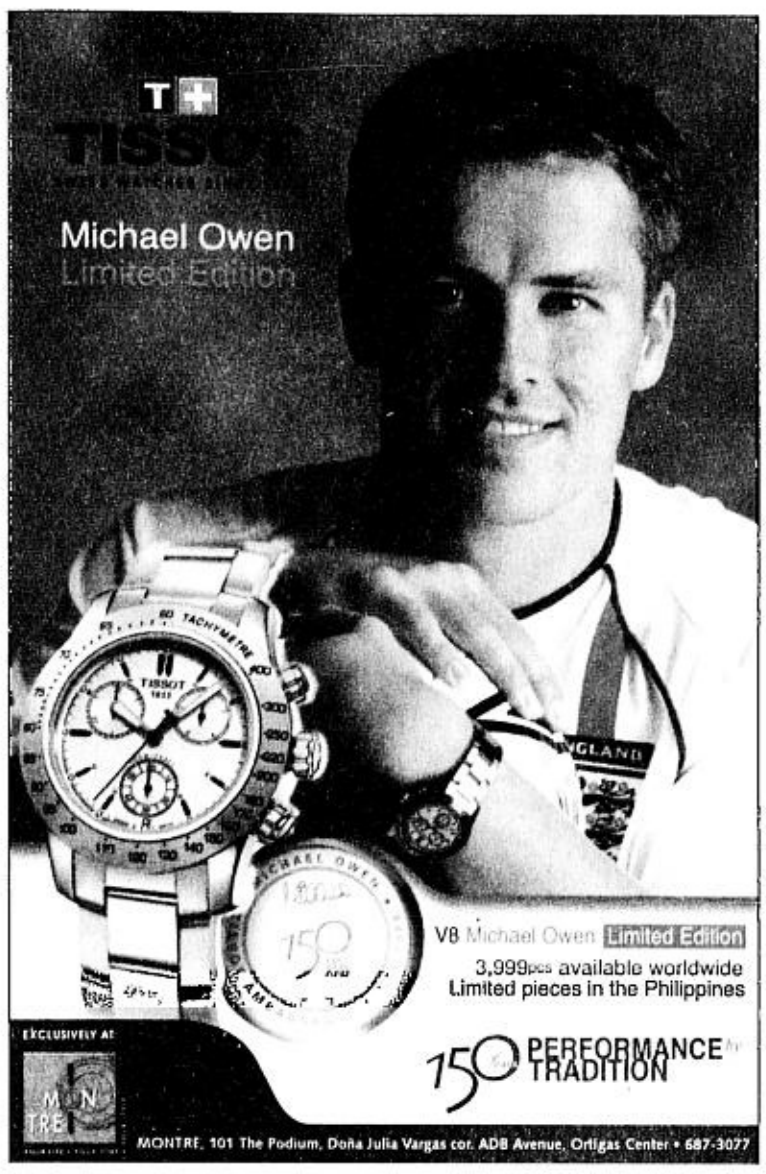
The 19-year-old Paragua scored six wins against two losses for a total of 6.0 points, the same output posted by Cuban IM Yuri Gonzales, winner of the recent Solsones tournament, and IM Petr Velicka of Czech Republic and Borris Sutopnik.

GM Gilberto Hernandez of Mexico scored 6.5 points to rule the 20-minute time control rapid chess event which drew 20 IMs and two GMs.

The Tondo-born Paragua resumes his campaign for a grandmaster result in the Barcelona Open tomorrow.

The Cannes Open champ is also set to compete in Open tournaments in Genova, Spain, and Arco, Italy, as well as in category X and XI grandmaster tournaments in Salou, Spain next month.

With a report from NM Marlon Bernardino



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Race 4—1. Going Free 2. Morena 3. Surprise Target 4. Mr. Purao

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 2003

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BSP keeps rates steady as peso recovers

By Clarissa S. Batino and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas kept overnight rates steady yesterday as the peso rebounded, but it tightened monetary policy mildly by scrapping a tiering system to encourage banks to park funds rather than speculate in the currency.

The tiering system on overnight borrowing pays a decreasing rate of interest that discourages banks from making larger deposits with the central bank. The BSP will now pay a flat rate of 6.75 percent, effective immediately. Its overnight lending rate is 9 percent.

The peso, which nearly touched its record low of 55.75 early this week due to political uncertainties, has gained strength after President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the BSP to crack the whip on speculators and use feasible tools to help the battered currency.

Yesterday, the peso closed at 54.93 to the dollar from Wednesday's closing of 55.33. This was the highest closing in two weeks.

Exporters and families of overseas workers were reported to have sold their dollars in anticipation of a further strengthening in the local currency that ended yesterday's trading as the region's best performer after it recovered 0.7 percent of the value lost previously.

Turnover at the Philippine Dealing System reached $166 million but traders said the central bank had nothing to do with the volume.

"I think we are back to normal, for now. As long as there are no major surprises, we are okay. This year, I think the peso would average between 53.50 and 54 (to $1) this year," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

The BSP chief said it would be unrealistic to achieve an average exchange rate of 52 to $1 this year or to hit the higher end of the economic growth target of 5.2 percent.

Traders said the peso would likely stabilize at the 54 to a dollar.

The tightening of monetary policy through the removal of the tiering was done to avert any adverse impact of the peso depreciation on the government's inflation target, Buenaventura noted.

The BSP chief said the policy-setting Monetary Board decided to remove the tiering scheme to prevent additional liquidity from flowing into the system.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal Arroyo has urged traders to temper their dollar purchases to what they actually would be needing in the next few months to reduce the speculative pressure on the peso, according to Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye.

In a briefing, Bunye said the peso has been losing ground because "some importers have been buying in excess of what they need in the next few months." Bunye said these importers have to "justify" their purchases especially if these exceeded their record of importation in the past few years.

In a statement, President Macapagal-Arroyo said that while Malacañang has teamed up with the BSP to defuse the operational causes of the peso slide, "there must be a greater and overriding effort by the nation to bounce back to normalcy and productivity."

The President said the campaign to stabilize the peso involves discouraging speculation as well as encouraging the public to exchange their dollars in the banks.

"It would be a patriotic act for small dollar holders to help ease up the foreign exchange market by letting go of their foreign exchange. We have to meet these challenges with a sense of solidarity and nationhood," the President said.

Malacañang reiterated its appeal to overseas Filipino workers to send their dollars now rather than wait for the Christmas season as an act of patriotism to save the economy.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

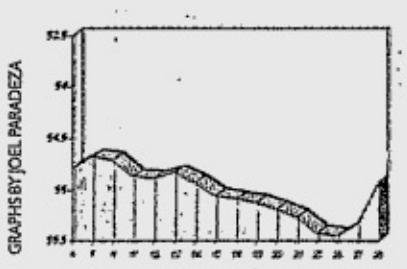
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 54.93 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 28, 2003

¥ 117.56 = $1

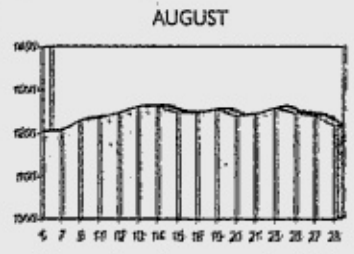
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 28, 2003



GOLD: $369.25-369.75
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 28, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Stocks slide on weak GDP figures



(See stock market report on Page B4)

STOCKS ended nearly 2 percent lower yesterday as lackluster second-quarter economic growth gave investors already concerned about security and political mud-slinging another reason to sell.

Traders said selling pressure could ease today on some light bargain-hunting after recent losses. But with politics firmly at center stage ahead of next May's election, the overall market downtrend was unlikely to be reversed.

The main stock index slid 24.49 points or 1.97 percent to 1,218.42, with financials leading the selling spree on fears of a possible tightening of monetary policy later in the day.

Turnover was a modest P370.4 million, lower than the P491.5 million on Wednesday.

Despite the market's pullback in the past month, the index is still up 19.64 percent this year.

"I think (the weak GDP) is partly it but (the market) also worries about the outcome of the central bank's Monetary Board meeting (yesterday). That's why banking stocks led the decline," said Spencer Yap, a senior analyst at BPI Securities.

There has been widespread market speculation that the central bank will be forced to tighten monetary policy in a bid to arrest the peso's recent slump. The Monetary Board decided later yesterday to keep interest rates unchanged. *Reuters*

Demoralization seen slowing down Customs collection

DEMORALIZATION caused by sweeping accusations of graft and corruption has slowed down the collection of the Bureau of Customs for the month and could endanger not only its P8.72-billion target but also the budget deficit goal for the period.

The strong performance this year of Customs, which collects tariffs arising from importation, had been instrumental in the government's ability to tame the budget deficit in the first seven months.

Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo said that as of Wednesday, the bureau was still short by about P700 million of the target for the period.

The customs chief said he was still hopeful the target this month would be met.

Bernardo said he had been trying to boost morale among the ranks by going around the ports and assuring his staff that the government had agreed to improve the conduct of the lifestyle check program.

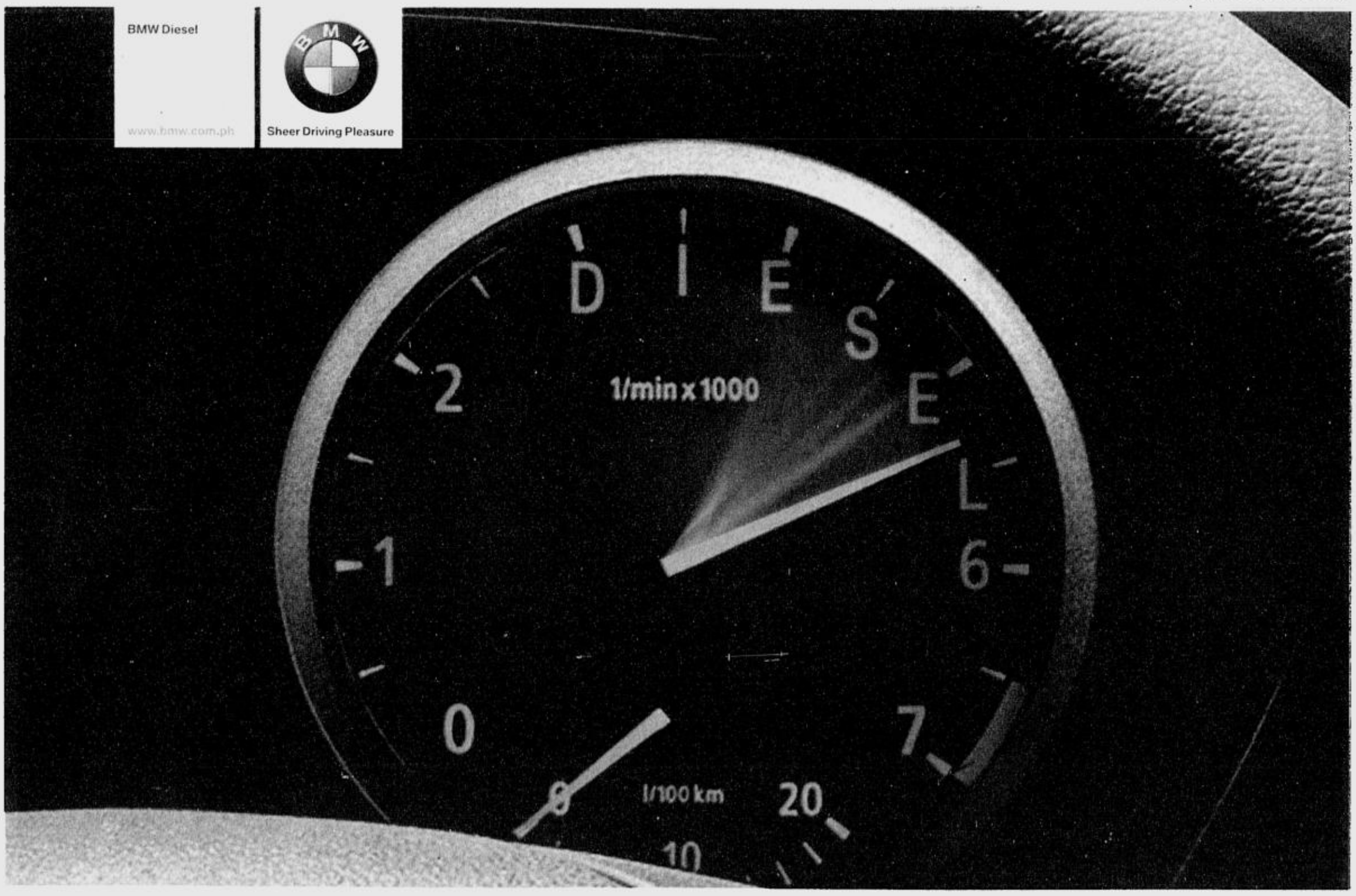
"Based on Treasury records, we did not meet the target in May but that was only because the collections in the last day was delayed, but essentially, we met the goal that month. This is the first time we are experiencing some collection drag," Bernardo said in an interview.

Bernardo and four of his five deputies submitted their courtesy resignations to Malacañang last Friday to protest the conduct of the lifestyle checks the government had been conducting to check rampant graft and corruption in the government.

The Customs chief met with President Macapagal-Arroyo and Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho last Monday.

Bernardo said that he requested Ms Macapagal to clarify the process of the lifestyle checks, refrain from any trial by publicity and to issue clearer guidelines as to what agency would investigate what department.

"I am very happy with the response of the President. She agreed to our suggestions. Customs is supporting the issuance of the executive order that would mandate the Revenue Integrity and Protection Service to conduct the lifestyle checks on agencies like the BIR and Customs," Bernardo said. *Clarissa S. Batino*



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Retail sales seen growing 5.5% in 2nd semester

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE VALUE of retail sales in the Philippines is expected to rise in the second half of this year by 5.5 percent to P939.7 billion from the comparative level last year as consumer confidence improves, according to MasterCard International's inaugural MasterIndex of Retail forecast.

Similar to the Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia are expected to show a 5.5-percent increase in retail sales in the second half, the second highest rate of expansion next only to China's 6.8-percent growth.

The MasterIndex of Retail was based on a survey of the four countries as well as Australia, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and Taiwan.

Australia and New Zealand were also projected to show a retail sales growth of 3.3 percent and 2.5 percent, respectively. Marginal growth was anticipated in the remaining market with the exception of Korea and Singapore, whose retail sales are seen to shrink in the next six months.

Based on a recent MasterIndex of Consumer Confidence survey covering the same markets and same time period, consumers in the Philippines have become much less pessimistic about the economy than they were in the past year and a half.

"The current index of 50.1 shows that consumers are not expecting much change over the next six months," MasterCard said in its earlier press statement last June. A rating of 50 indicates neutral sentiment.

MasterCard, however, noted that the neutral consumer confidence in the country was a very significant improvement compared with the "deep pessimism" recorded six months ago.

Based on the results of MasterCard's latest bi-annual survey, Philippine consumers expressed positive sentiments on having regular incomes in the next six months with the sub-index for the category reaching 79.4.

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Food safety: Key component of food security

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

IN 1996, some residents in Angeles City, Pampanga, were hospitalized because of intestinal trouble. Two duty-free shops at Clark were later charged selling canned goods well beyond their expiration dates.

During the El Niño drought in late 1997 and early 1998, several farmers in Mindanao resorted to eating an indigenous poisonous crop called kayos. This resulted in several deaths.

Last year, smuggled carrots from China sold at a wholesale price of P6 a kilo instead of the normal price of P20. This not only harmed Cordillera farmers who lost their livelihood. It also endangered consumers health because these carrots had not passed our phytosanitary inspection procedures.

Food safety

In these three cases, food safety was not present. In food security discussions, emphasis is often given to only two elements of food security: supply and affordability. However, without food safety, there is no food security.

Food safety is of primary concern to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Each defines food safety differently. FAO defines it as providing assurance that food does not cause harm to the consumer when it is prepared and/or eaten according to its intended use. WHO talks in terms of food-borne illnesses, usually either infectious or toxic in nature, caused by agents that enter the body through the ingestion of food. Both agree that food safety is one of the components of food security, the others being food availability through production and access to food through purchasing power. It is important that our policy makers keep this in mind, as this aspect is often given less than its deserved importance.

Importance

Saurav Barat and Amir Kassam state that food safety is particularly important today because of two factors: (1) food is the primary mode of transmission of disease-causing agents (bacteria, virus, other germs) and (2) food is intricately linked to development as it not only governs individual and communal health and therefore national productivity, it also has export potential and can earn much needed foreign exchange.

Even in developed countries, one out of three consumers contracts disease from food-borne pathogens each year. In the US, there are 76 million cases of food-borne illness, resulting in 325,000 hospitalizations and 5,000 deaths. In the developing countries, it is much worse. Though medical systems in these countries are not equipped to get accurate statistics on this area, it is known that many in the developing world fall prey to harmful food-borne diseases such as cholera, diarrhea and Hepatitis A. Of the 1.5 billion children below age 5 who are affected by diarrhea yearly, 70 percent of the cases are caused by biologically contaminated food and unclean water. Three million of them die prematurely, mainly in developing countries.

In the area of international trade, the highest number of rejections of imported food products come from developing countries like ours. The most frequent violations are alleged presence of insects, microbial contamination and excessive pesticide residue levels. That is why the US does not allow entry of our mangoes except those from Guimaras; our bananas and pineapples cannot be sold in Australia, and our okra was temporarily banned in Japan. Where these food safety reasons have merit, we must quickly act to solve the problem, as we did for our okra in Japan. But where they appear to constitute unfair non-tariff barriers, we should elevate this to a possible dispute settlement at the World Trade Organization (WTO) as the Department of Agriculture (DA) is creditably doing for our pineapples in Australia.

Post-harvest operations

What is often overlooked in looking at food safety is post harvest operations (storage, drying, processing, packaging, transportation, and marketing). It is here where food safety measures are sorely lacking. And yet this area accounts for 55 percent of the economic value of food in developing countries and 80 percent in developed nations. The funding Congress gives the DA for this is far short of the level mandated by the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (Afma). This is ironic, considering that in many areas, the return on investment in post harvest facilities is even higher than the ROI in irrigation.

Realizing the importance of a farm-to-table systems approach (or a seed to shelf strategy, as the DA would call it), the EU, US, Australia, New Zealand and Canada have adopted the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) system which looks at safety measures that encompass both production and post-harvest operations. Application of HACCP principles is now a pre-requisite for developing countries to gain entry into industrialized markets. This will not only help our economy with much needed jobs and foreign exchange. It will also give our own consumers safe food, since we have taken the appropriate food safety measures in every step of the process.

Conclusion

We should ask Congress for the resources to be given to the area of food safety, following the Afma law. Empowered and transformational communities must work with the government in taking food safety measures in legislation, regulation, international trade negotiations, production and post-harvest operations, and governance (as the Benguet transformational farming community has shown in helping prevent the entry of unsafe smuggled vegetables). This way, cases such as the three mentioned earlier in Pampanga, Mindanao and the Cordillera will not be repeated. We will then have a better chance in attaining both food safety and food security.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative, former undersecretary of the DA and DTI and chair/secretary, Presidential Flagship Programs and Project. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635)

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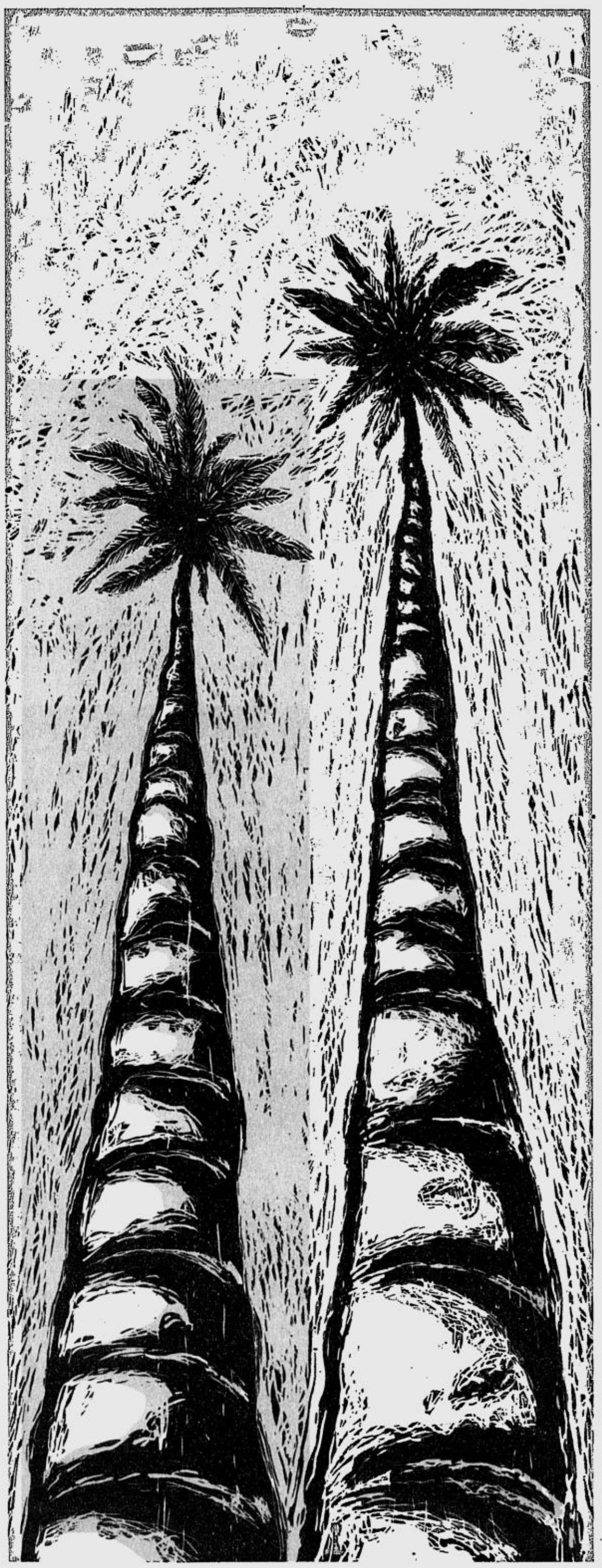

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 28, 2003)

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BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	18.25	17.25	18.25	197,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42.5	42.5	40.5	41.5	959,600
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	1,120
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33.5	33.5	32.5	32.5	664,500
First E-Bank Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	50,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29.5	29.5	27.5	29	258,800
Philippine National Bank	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.5	10,800
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	13	13	4,100
Security Bank Corp.	19.25	19.25	19	19	109,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	26	26	25.5	25.5	72,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	5,997,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1180	1180	1175	1175	270
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25	25	24	24.5	26,700
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.55	0.55	6,880,000
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	10,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	630	630	620	620	13,920
Ipeople Inc	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	100,000
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.049	0.049	0.048	0.048	3,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.049	0.05	38,200,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.55	0.55	1,920,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	555	555	540	545	97,290
Ivantage Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	50,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	2,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	13.75	13	13	1,166,200
Manila Electric Co. B	21.5	21.5	20.5	20.5	1,074,100
Petron Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.94	1.96	3,357,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.26	2.36	2.26	2.3	260,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.93	0.94	0.93	0.93	180,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.75	2.75	2.65	2.65	5,614,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Cement Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	10,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	20,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29.5	29	29.5	16,800
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.25	152,700
San Miguel Corp. A	54	55	54	55	18,800
San Miguel Corp. B	64	64	63.5	63.5	17,000
Universal Robina Corp.	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.9	436,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.2	5,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.39	110,000
Ayala Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.35	5,073,000
Alsons Cons. Res., Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	200,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	30,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	1,300,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	58,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	10,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	40,000
Benpres Holdings Corp	0.59	0.59	0.56	0.56	29,550,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	30,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.175	0.19	0.175	0.19	110,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.26	1,320,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.5	17.5	819,600
Global Equities Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.12	50,000
Ionics Inc.	1.36	1.4	1.36	1.4	416,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	185,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	50,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.87	0.89	5,810,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	1,340,000
Music Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.35	0.35	3,700,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	160,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.3	0.33	270,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	3,110,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	42,000
Pryce Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	1,200,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	19,200
Steniel Manufacturing	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	150,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.53	0.54	0.52	0.53	10,270,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	160,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	30,000
Manila Jockey Club	8	8	8	8	1,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	60,000
Premiere Ent. Prod., Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	150,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	25	25	24.25	24.75	361,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,900
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,200
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	13,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.1	6.2	5,518,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.33	490,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.195	0.195	0.185	0.19	1,900,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	1,700,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.04	0.98	1	7,434,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.87	0.87	100,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	10,000
SM Development Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	124,000
SM Prime Holdings, Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.5	4,742,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	310,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	100,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	330,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	200,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	2,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	24,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	30,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	18,000,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	13,900,000
South China Resources Inc	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	100,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	8,330,590	86,128,675.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	203,185,410	215,253,015.00
PRO	22,128,000	69,045,460.00
Mining	356,640,000	1,466,100.00
OIL	35,000,000	262,800.00
GRAND TOTALS :	625,284,000	372,156,050.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	422.95	DOWN 14.42
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,773.49	DOWN 19.49
PRO	533.76	DOWN 18.13
Mining	1,210.08	DOWN 51.09
OIL	1.38	DOWN 0.01
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	779.75	DOWN 12.49
Composite	1,218.42	DOWN 24.49

NO. OF ADVANCES:12, NO. OF DECLINES: 52, NO. OF UNCHANGED: 43, NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 107, NO. OF TRADES: 2,472

DISCLOSURES

MULTITECH Investments Corp. postponed its annual stockholders' meeting scheduled on August 29 and tentatively rescheduled it on Dec. 19.

***

ELECTED directors of Dizon Copper-Silver Mines Inc. were Luis Dizon, Teresita Dizon, Teodoro Ablang Jr., Frederick Matsuda, Gregorio Dizon, Agnes Maranan, Rafael Dizon Jr., Serafin Feliciano and Francis Gustilo.

***

AYALA Land Inc. declared a special cash dividend of P0.26 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of September 26 and will be payable on Oct. 22.

***

WILLIAM, Gothong and Aboitiz Inc. transferred the shipping operations of its wholly owned subsidiary, Cebu Ferries Corp. to itself.

***

BALABAC Resources and Holdings Co. Inc. postponed its annual stockholders' meeting that was mandated to be held on the second Tuesday of September.

***

SWIFT Foods Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting to September 19, 10:30 a.m. at the auditorium of RFM Corporate Center, Mandaluyong City.

***

MANILA Broadcasting Co. moved its annual stockholders' meeting to October 7, 3 p.m.

***

OFFICERS elected by the new directors of Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp. were Anselmo Trinidad Jr., chair; Antonio Ong, vice chair; Carlos Syquia, president and CEO; Roberto San Jose, corporate secretary and Antonio Ramon Lopez, treasurer. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

August 28, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.918864	1.000000	55.272000
Japan	Yen	0.007828	0.008519	0.470900
United Kingdom	Pound	1.445649	1.573300	86.959400
Hongkong	Dollar	0.117819	0.128222	7.087100
Switzerland	Franc	0.649834	0.707214	39.089100
Canada	Dollar	0.655535	0.713419	39.432100
Singapore	Dollar	0.524765	0.571102	31.565900
Australia	Dollar	0.588714	0.640697	35.412600
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.437435	2.652661	146.617900
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.245024	0.266660	14.738800
Brunei	Dollar	0.523271	0.569476	31.476100
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.022297	0.024266	1.341200
UAE	Dirham	0.250187	0.272279	15.049400
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.088300	60.152500
Brazil	Real	0.308759	0.336022	18.572600
Denmark	Kroner	0.134589	0.146473	8.095900
India	Rupee	0.020054	0.021825	1.206300
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.241839	0.263193	14.547200
Mexico	New Peso	0.084292	0.091735	5.070400
New Zealand	Dollar	0.524945	0.571298	31.576800
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015966	0.017376	0.960400
Korea	Won	0.000780	0.000849	0.046900
Sweden	Kroner	0.108262	0.117822	6.512300
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026970	0.029351	1.622300

INTEREST RATES

Aug. 28, 2003- MART1 Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 28-Aug-03	MART1 27-Aug-03
1 Month	5.9554	5.9115
3 Months	6.0967	6.0217
6 Months	6.5268	6.5231
1 Year	8.1967	8.0983
2 Years	9.7267	9.7357
3 Years	10.4217	10.39
4 Years	10.75	10.7446
5 Years	11.1018	11.0304
7 Years	11.595	11.5617
10 Years	11.8967	11.8767
20 Years	12.2217	12.2017
25 Years	12.4839	12.4917

SOURCE: MART1/BLOOMBERG

Taiwanese selling Chinabank stake to Yuchengco

By Elena R. Torrijos

TAIPEI-BASED International Commercial Bank of China is selling its entire 8-percent stake in China Banking Corp., a profitable medium-sized commercial bank, to the Yuchengco group for about $23 million, or equivalent to P640 per share.

A person familiar with the proposed deal said negotiations between the two parties had gone smoothly and that approval for the transaction by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas was currently being sought.

Under the deal, ICBC would sell 1.64 million of its total 2.05 million Chinabank shares to publicly listed, Yuchengco-controlled Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., with the remainder of the shares to be purchased by Great Pacific Life Assurance Corp. and Pan Malayan Management and Investment Corp., both also owned by the Yuchengcos.

RCBC earlier this week disclosed its board approved the purchase of 1.64 million Chinabank shares, but did not disclose the buyer. When asked why the bank was increasing its stake, a bank spokesperson said the bank had nothing else to add to its earlier disclosure.

The Yuchengco group's acquisition of ICBC's 8-percent Chinabank stake would bring up the former's holdings in the bank to more than 18 percent from close to 9 percent.

Chinabank's total issued shares stands at 25.38 million of which RCBC owns 8.96 percent and the Yuchengco's Malayan Insurance, 1.3 percent.

Aside from ICBC and the Yuchengcos, the other key shareholders of Chinabank are the Dee family and the group of retail tycoon Henry Sy.

Sy's SM group owns about 38 percent of Chinabank through SM Investments Corp., Sysmart Inc., Shoemart Inc. and some personal shares held by the retail tycoon himself while ICBC owns 8 percent.

Chinabank, which has been operating for 83 years and maintains a strong niche in the Filipino-Chinese community, boasts of one of the best return-to-equity ratios in the domestic banking industry.

Management is currently led by bank president and chief executive Peter Dee, who is married to the eldest daughter of taipan Alfonso Yuchengco.

Lacson's backroom boys

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

DESPITE being the chair of the human rights group Mabini that is suing Panfilo Lacson for alleged human rights atrocities, former Sen. Rene A.V. Saguisag sounds like he is now deeply embedded with the Lacson agit-prop camp.

The normally circumspect Harvard Law graduate/Cory spokesperson is now even publicly peddling talk that Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo has had mistresses, in addition to the alleged but vigorously denied relationship the First Gentleman has with his accountant/secretary, Victoria Toh.

"I got the impression that Mike Arroyo, to whom (ex-Arroyo messenger Eugenio Mahusay Jr.) had appealed, was, like me, a Super-Takusa, save that here, he seems to be a Super-Takulasisi," Saguisag said in a press statement.

(Takusa, for the non-Filipinos, is Tagalog slang for "takot sa asawa", literally "afraid of the wife", while takulasisi is "takot sa kulasisi", literally "afraid of the mistress.")

"(Mahusay) mentioned other names. Here and abroad," Saguisag gleefully hinted. *"Talagang pilyo ka talaga, Mike."*

Saguisag said he met with the messenger-turned-tattler last Saturday in a Quezon City house along with Erap-Lacson lawyers Jose Flaminiano, Artemio Tuquero, Jay Flaminiano, and Alex Carao, Saguisag's law partner.

In addition, a Saguisag associate, Julie Ann Dumlao, notarized the Mahusay affidavit that Lacson is now using against Arroyo.

Strangely, Mahusay told the Erap-Lacson lawyers grilling him that he was known as "Onyok," rather than "Udong" that his family and friends call him.

"All sorts of questions were tossed at Onyok, which he handled calmly, confidently, and credibly," Saguisag said.

"He only became emotional when he talked of the effect on the family name of the way Vicky Toh caused his removal from employment, with a cloud over it."

A Lacson banking/financial adviser, publisher/columnist/former central bank spokesman Rodolfo Romero, clarified that he and Bank of Commerce president Raul de Mesa, Lacson's campaign treasurer, had nothing to do with the privilege speech of Lacson where columnists, government officials and businessmen had been lumped as part of a vast criminal enterprise/laundry machine allegedly directed by the First Gentleman and the Villaraza and Angangco law firm.

Romero claimed that he had been taken out of the loop by Lacson spokesman Angelito Banayo and PR consultant/ex-Inquirer reporter Raymond Burgos since his name and association with Lacson appeared in the Cocktales column sometime ago.

But Romero clarified that he still has his pipeline to Lacson, and that his commitment to the presidentiable is to burnish his tarnished image among the Ayala-based businessmen, along with delivering the votes from his Negros home province.

Greg Garcia, the former president but still significant shareholder of Hemisphere-Leo Burnett ad agency, also clarified that his work with Lacson had been limited to producing the Robina Gokongwei and other testimonial TV ads for the presidential candidate, but not Lacson's controversial powerpoint/privilege speech about the alleged Jose Pidal account.

Toh-ken victory

AND speaking of Victoria Toh, her elderly father had recently won a Supreme Court victory in a civil case he filed against the former Far East Bank and Trust Co.

Tomas Toh Sr. won the right to recover P2.56 million in deposits that Far East Bank, now taken over by Bank of the Philippine Islands, debited in 1999 to cover payment of a debt-ridden company that Toh and his family had bound themselves as sureties.

Despite other pending issues in the suit, Justices Josue Bellosillo and Romeo Callejo Sr. paved the way for "discretionary execution" and Toh's recovery of his bank deposits after noting his advanced age, 79, and his sons' testimonies that he had been given relief as surety of the ill-fated Catmon Sales International Corp.

The third justice, Maria Alicia Austria-Martinez, was on leave when Bellosillo and Callejo handed down the decision in late June.

Target: Overseas contributors

BOTH the GMA and Lacson camps have been trawling the overseas Filipino communities for dollar-denominated contributions.

Last weekend, Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson was in Saipan asking the substantial Pinoy community in the US territory for contributions to the Classrooms Galing sa Mamamayang Pilipino (CGMA) project of the labor, education and foreign affairs departments and the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Proceeds of the fund raising, to be coursed through a trust account with the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines, will be earmarked for the construction of 10,000 classrooms (cost: $4,000/each) before the GMA term ends in 2004.

In Hong Kong, a staunch Ping Lacson supporter, Ken Siu, has agreed to issue two Ping Lacson pre-paid telephone cards targeting the estimated 180,000-strong Filipino community in the Chinese territory.

A frequent Manila visitor, Siu owns Quantum Telecommunications in Hong Kong, which, according to the grapevine, has agreed to donate to the candidate a percentage for every telephone card sold bearing the Lacson photo.

Heard through the grapevine

TOYOTA has set an across-the-board price increase for all its vehicles starting Sept. 1, in view of the now unrealistic P53.50-$1 exchange rate the Japanese vehicle assembler had been using for its pricing calculations.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

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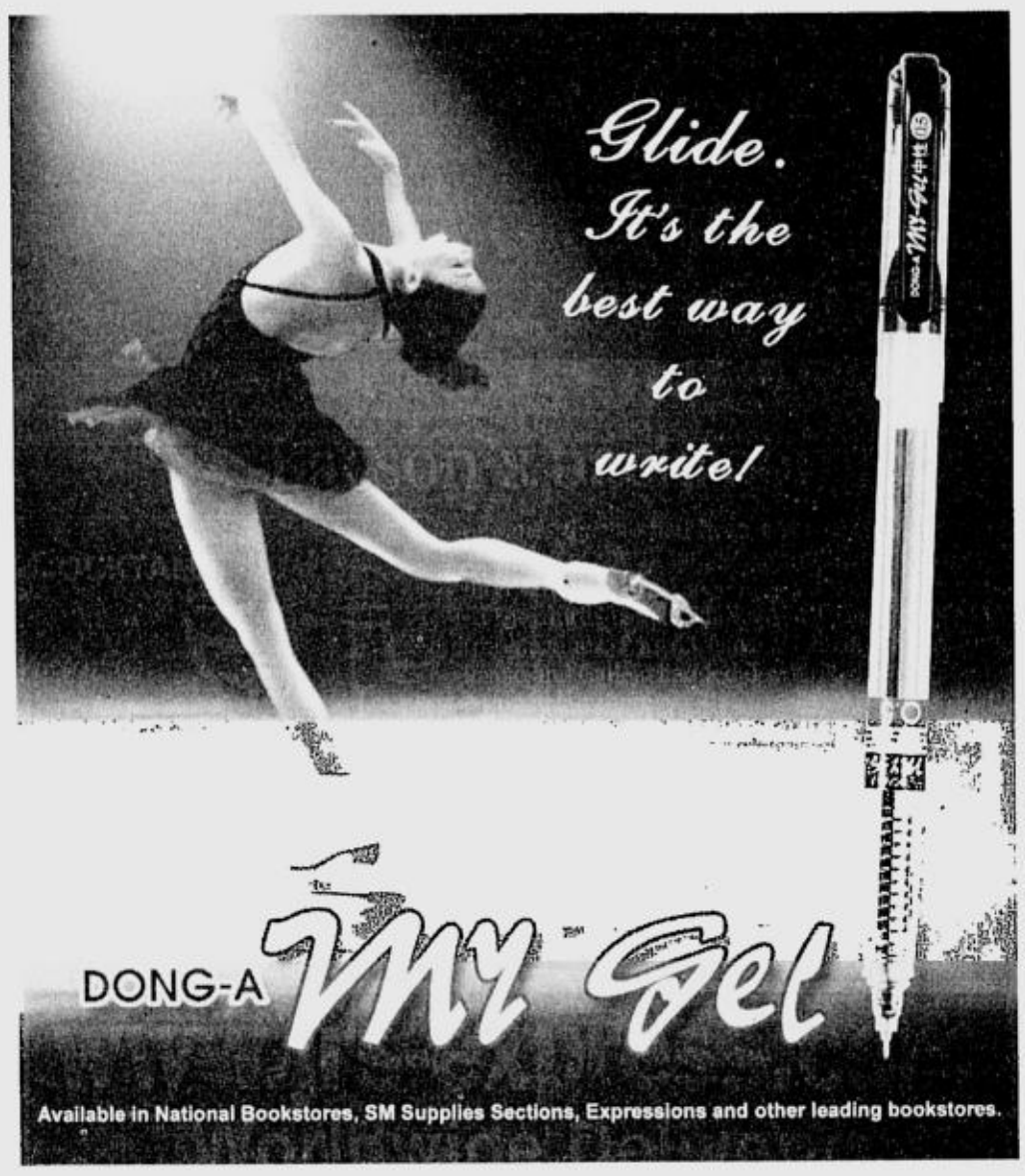

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Model	Year	Color	Mileage	Price
318i Limousine	2002	Titanium Silver	12k	1,755,000
318i Limousine	2002	Orient Blue	12k	1,755,000
318i Limousine	2002	Black Sapphire	6k	1,795,000
318i Limousine	2003	Steel Gray	5k	1,855,000
323i	2001	Titanium Silver	26k	1,815,000
318i Limousine	2003	Steel Gray	9k	1,820,000
318i Limousine	2003	Titanium Silver	8k	1,820,000
325	2003	Titanium Silver	4k	2,650,000
525i	2002	Titanium Silver	17k	2,750,000
525i	2002	Black Sapphire	13k	2,850,000
Z4	2003	Black Sapphire	4k	3,150,000

BMW Executive Cars

Model	Year	Color	Chassis #	Price
316i	2003	Titanium Silver	JA94025	1,450,000
318i Limousine	2003	Titanium Silver	ET77240	1,850,000
318i Executive	2003	Titanium Silver	ET77266	1,950,000
325i	2003	Titanium Silver	EY71045	2,500,000

Other BMW Pre-Owned Cars

Model	Year	Color	Mileage	Price
316i	1997	Boston Green	60k	685,000
318ids	1996	Titanium Silver	52k	875,000
523i	1996	Dunkel Blue	52k	1,425,000
318i Executive	2001	Black Sapphire	20k	1,785,000

*On selected cars
**At 30% or 5,000 kilometer (whichever comes first) limited warranty on BMW Pre-Owned Cars

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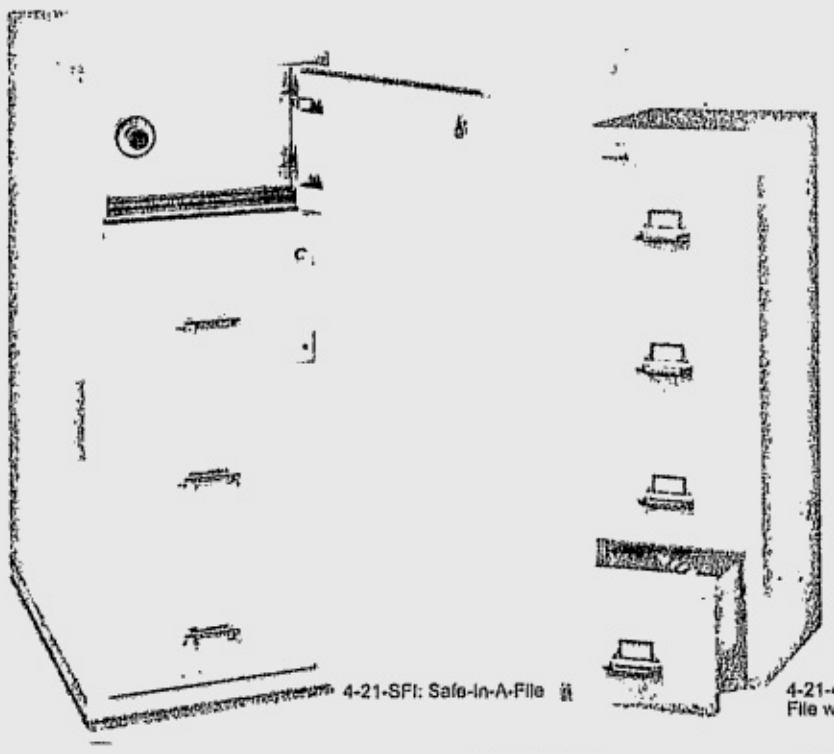
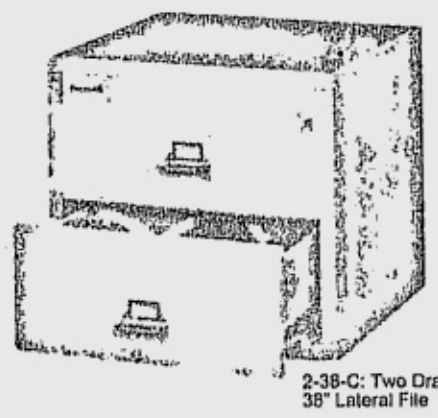
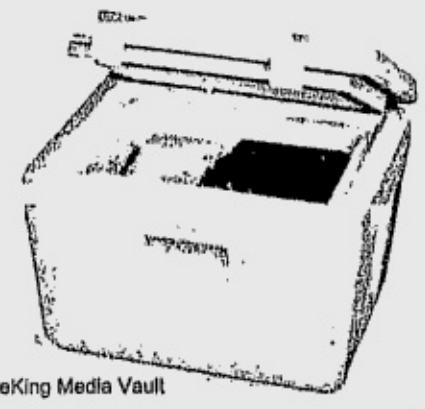


4-21-SFI: Safe-In-A-File

4-21-4C: 4 Drawer Vertical File w/ 4 Individual Lock



2-36-C: Two Drawer 36" Lateral File



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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of Pejman Services, Inc. with address at Unit 506, Keppel Center, Cebu Business Park Cebu City for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as amended by Republic Act 7918, as an ICT Enabled Services-Customer Contact Center with proposed plant Site at Unit 506, Keppel Center, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City has been officially accepted on August 26, 2003 and is currently being processed

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing and under oath with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department
(PDI-- Aug. 29, 2003)

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Remedios Noguera was self-adjudicated by Angelita San Agustin of Manila per Doc.#38, Page #8, Book #367, Series of 2003 of Notary Public L. Lawas-Yuto (PDI-Aug. 22, 29, Sept. 5, 2003)

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PAL posts P900M in losses

By Abigail L. Ho

THE LINGERING effects of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak on the aviation industry could put flag carrier Philippine Airlines Inc. back in a net loss position at the end of its fiscal year in March 2004.

In a briefing after yesterday's stockholders meeting, PAL chief finance officer Andrew Huang said the company had been posting losses since the SARS outbreak hit in April this year.

From April to July alone, PAL had already registered a net loss of more than P900 million.

Huang explained that the SARS outbreak had a bigger impact on the aviation industry than the 2001 terror attacks in the United States because of its "lingering effects."

Still reeling from a P1.6-billion net loss last fiscal year brought about by the Sept. 11 incident, PAL could again be in the red this fiscal year—the second time since it went under rehabilitation in 1999.

But Huang expressed optimism that PAL could still take advantage of the slow recovery in the aviation industry bought about by severe cost-cutting measures that buoyed margins.

He related that PAL had been cutting down on costs by reducing its available seat capacities for flights that were not turning in as much revenue as expected.

RP sees P1.5B in savings from coffee program

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY is expected to save about P1.5 billion in annual coffee imports when it becomes self-sufficient in coffee and regains its position as a major coffee exporter in the region.

This was the bullish projection made by the National Coffee Development Board, which said that its joint coffee development program with the agriculture department would offset 35,000 metric tons of coffee imports a year.

The coffee board, a private-sector led group tasked by President Macapagal-Arroyo to revive the coffee industry, said the coffee development program would be completed in 10 years.

Guillermo Luz, director of the coffee board, said the group expected to achieve its growth targets through technical assistance and credit programs for coffee farmers and marketing and promotion efforts of Philippine coffee in the local and export markets.

To provide financial resources for coffee farmers, the coffee board has tapped the services of the Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corp. (Quedancor).

The credit agency has already financed the development of the first 15,000 hectares of farmland, which were provided high-quality coffee seedlings and fertilizers. Quedancor was also set to release another P300 million next year to accommodate more farms ideal for coffee production.

According to Agriculture Assistant Secretary Tetchie Capellan, the master plan jointly drafted by the coffee board and the DA calls for the conversion of 5,000 hectares of land per year into high-yielding coffee farms.

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CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
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August 27, 2003

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The dates to be followed are:

ACTIVITIES	DATE
1. Submission of Letter of Intent, PCAB License and Registration (Bring original copies of Contractor's License for authentication) and Issuance of Eligibility Documents	September 1 to 8, 2003
2. Submission of duly accomplished eligibility documents	September 15, 2003
3. Posting of Eligible Contractors	September 22, 2003
4. Issuance of Bid/Tender Documents	September 24 & 29, 2003
5. Pre-bid Conference	September 30, 2003
6. Submission of Bids (Deadline)	October 14, 2003 (10.00 A.M.)
7. Opening of Bids	October 14, 2003 (10.00 A.M.)

Activity Nos. 1 to 4 above shall be held at the Office of the COBAC Secretariat, Procurement and Logistics Service, Bldg. No. 26, while Activity Nos. 5 to 7 shall be held at the Health Human Resource Development Bureau Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Blr'g. No. 12A, DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

The complete set of bid documents may be purchased by the interested eligible bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee of **THREE THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P3,000.00).**

COBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by COBAC is the most advantageous to the Government. COBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

The Approved Budget Cost will be announced during the Pre-bid Conference.

(Sgd.) ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Undersecretary of Health and
Chairman - COBAC

(PDI – August 29 and September 5, 2003)

Trans Co
NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
South Luzon Operation & Maintenance

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. TRANSCO 2003-09A

The Southern Luzon Transco (SLT), Transco wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 16, 2003; 2:00 PM	
A1	1 LOT	WIRE GRIP AND CHAIN HOIST	CAV-03-106
	1 LOT	BELT SAFETY TOWER AND 4 OTHERS	3QUE-03-083
	1 SET	CHAIN BLOCK	3NCS-03-031
	1 LOT	STICK, TELESCOPIC AND 3 OTHERS	D1-03-173
		DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 17, 2003; 2:00 PM	
A1	1 SET	VARIABLE POWER SUPPLY UNIT	PSMD-North03-089
A3	1 LOT	PAINT, ANTI-CORROSIVE AND 5 OTHERS	3LAG03-109
A4	1 UNIT	POWER TRANSFORMER	CAV-03-075
A5	1 LOT	HOIST, CAPSTAN	3CSA03-056

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLT, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per schedule starting August 27, 2003. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the SLT Bidding Room, Transco-SL, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock P.M. on the date specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Initial Technical Proposals of eligible bidders will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "Executive Order 40"

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, or 1.5% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee, or 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) R. D. RAMAS
CHAIRMAN-BAC
TRANSCO SOUTH

(PDI--Aug. 29, 2003)

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Kagawaran ng Ugnayang Panlabas
Department of Foreign Affairs

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
2330 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Metro Manila
Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Foreign Affairs-Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee (DFA-PBAC) is inviting interested bidders to apply for eligibility and bid for the following service contracts:

A. **PEST CONTROL SERVICE CONTRACT (re-publication)**
B. **PHOTOCOPIER LEASE SERVICE CONTRACT**
C. **SECURITY SERVICE CONTRACT**

All interested bidders may avail of bid documents from 25 August - 8 September 2003, upon submission of a Letter of Intent addressed to the undersigned and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00) at the DFA-PBAC Secretariat Office of the Undersecretary for Administration, 12th Floor, DFA Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Tel. # 834-4066. Prequalification documents must be submitted to the DFA-PBAC Secretariat on or before the dates specified below for each service. Applications for eligibility shall be evaluated using the "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only the companies prequalified by the DFA-PBAC shall be allowed to submit bids. Prebid conferences may be held upon determination by the DFA-PBAC for purposes of clarifying certain issues.

ACTIVITY	PEST CONTROL (re-publication)	PHOTOCOPIER LEASE	SECURITY SERVICE
Submission of Prequal Docs.	24 Sept. 2003, 1700H (deadline)	25 Sept. 2003, 1700H (deadline)	26 Sept. 2003, 1700H (deadline)
Submission of Sealed Bids	22 Oct. 2003, 1400H (deadline)	23 Oct. 2003, 1400H (deadline)	24 Oct. 2003, 1400H (deadline)
Opening of Sealed Bids	22 Oct. 2003, 1500H	23 Oct. 2003, 1500H	24 Oct. 2003, 1500H

DFA-PBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, and to waive any deficiencies and required formalities embodied therein. DFA-PBAC assumes no obligations whatsoever to offset the expenses and/or losses the bidder may have incurred in the preparation of the bids. DFA-PBAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, and/or not to award the contract, and makes no assurances that all contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) FRANKLIN M. EBDALIN
Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs
Chairman, DFA-PBAC

(PDI – August 22 & 29, 2003)

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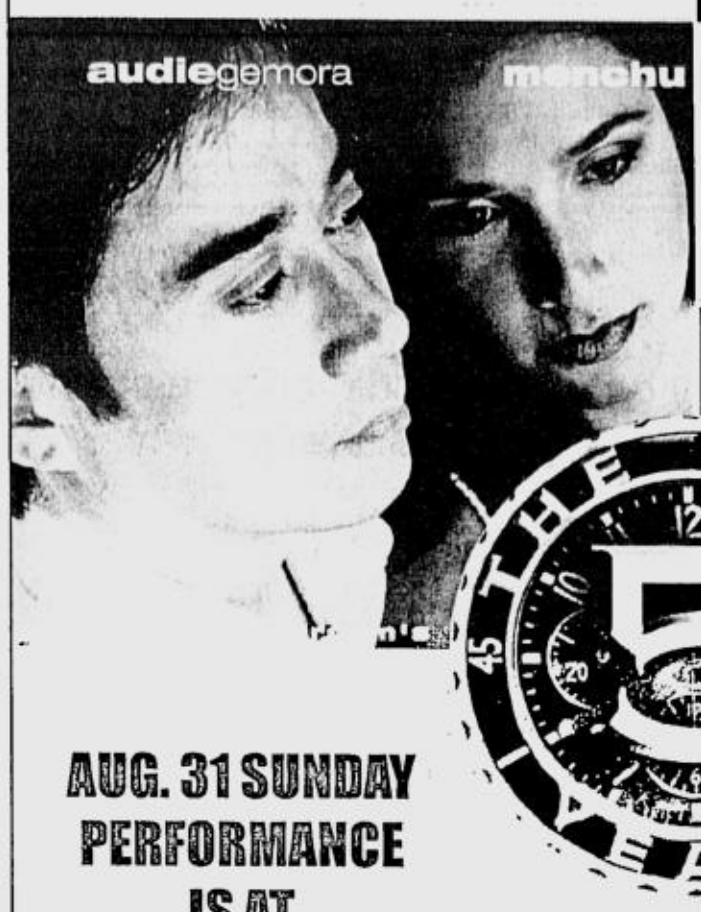

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SPECIAL EVENTS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2003

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN/Function Rm. A
Workshop for Teachers & Parents
Adarna House

10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M./Function Rm. B
Seminar/Workshop
"Lamaze Orientation"
Anvil Publishing, Inc

12:00 NN - 5:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Game Show
Pasiklaban sa Paaralan
(Teacher's Edition)
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

1:30 P.M. - 2:30 P.M./Function Rm. A
Book Launching
Adarna House

3:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M./Function Rm. A
Visino's Read to Lead Road Show
Pfizer Inc

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
Book Launching
The Holy Rosary: Heart of the Family (A double VCD on the Holy Rosary), The Word of God and Ang Salita ng Diyos (Liturgical texts, Introductions and Catechesis on the Sunday Readings and Holy Week), Sex? Pag-usapan Natin! (Filipino translation of "Learning to Love", 88 Questions and Answers on Human Sexuality for Teenagers"
Word and Life Publications

6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
National Book Awards
Manila Critics Circle

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2003

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
Seminar
"Understanding the Book Market: Culling Out Data from the SWS Survey"
National Book Development Board

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2003

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
Forum
"Holistic Approach on Healthy Lifestyle"
Medical & Health Librarians Assn. of the Philippines

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Forum
"Nurturing the Entrepreneurial Spirit in Librarians for their Financial Independence"
Philippine Librarians Association, Inc.

1:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M./Function Rms. A & B
Seminar
"Filipino Teachers on Becoming A Servant Leader"
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
Seminar & Workshop/Book Launching
"Shaping the Global Person Through Interactive Learning"
C & E Publishing, Inc

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN/Function Rm. B
Seminar
"Computer-Aided Instruction in the Classroom by Using GLENCOE Technology"
McGraw-Hill Education & IBC Infotech

12:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M./Function Rm.B
Book Launching
"SRA Literacy Across BEC (Integrating Math, Science & Reading Through Multimedia)"
McGraw-Hill Education & Abiva Publishing House

4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Book Launching
St Pauls

5:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M./Function Rm. A
Seminar/Workshop
"How To Do Everything With Your Digital Camera"
McGraw-Hill Education

6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M./Function Rm. B
St. Michael's Mass by
Ryan Cayabyab
Book Wagon

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2003

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Forum
"Lead or Be Led.
Change is Inevitable"
Philippine Association of Teachers of Library Science

1:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M./Function Rm. B
Forum
"Emerging Paradigm: A Vision of Reference Service in a Complex Information Environment"
Philippine Association of Academic and Research Libraries

5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Make Mine Music with
Joonee Garcia
Book Wagon

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2003

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN/Function Rm. A
Sa Aklat Sisikat Foundation:
Put A Book Into Every Filipino Child's Hands This Christmas
Sa Aklat Sisikat Foundation, Inc.

11:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN/Function Rm. B
Book Launching
"God's Li'l Artists Series (Our Father, Hail Mary, The Creed, Works Of Mercy (Beautiful Little Hearts), St Mabel at si Angelina), Sa Pagtilaok ng Tandang, Sagot: Mga Pangunahing Katanungan Tungkol sa Pananampalatayang Katoliko, Lord, Heal Me For I Am Sick"
Paulines Publications

12:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M./Function Rms. A & B
Seminar
"Integrating ICT into the New Curriculum"
Diwa Learning Systems Inc

5:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M./Function Rms. A & B
Booklaunching and
Anniversary Celebration

"When Things Go Wrong, The God We Have Forgotten, Finding Your Way, Encouraging Words for Women, Nasaan Ang Diyos Kapag Ako'y Nasasaktan, Arthur's Angry, Ang Batang Ayaw Maligo, Hello God 1 & 2, Mga Kuwento ni Tito Dok, 5 (Ha-ha-hatsingg!), 6 (Kraaak, Nabali ang Buto ni Ferdie!), & 7 (Ngii, ang Kati-kati ng Ulo Ko!), Bible Promises Series, Diamond in the Dust, Leadership Promises Everyday"
OMF Literature, Inc

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2003

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN/Function Rm. A
Forum
"Online Reference Freebies"
UP Library Science Alumni Association

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN/Function Rm. B
Forum
"Career Opportunities for Librarians & Information Professionals by Hon. Ramon B. Magsaysay, Jr."
Assn. of Special Libraries of the Phils.

1:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M./Function Rms. A & B
Game Show
"Pasiklaban sa Paaralan"
Diwa Learning Systems, Inc.

5:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M./Function Rm. B
Book Launching
"Darna, etc., Ang Etika ni Sto. Tomas de Aquino, Angono Rizal - Art Capital ng Pilipinas, Back to the Things Themselves, Clio on Elephant, Kasaysayan Ngayon, 3rd Lira Anthology, Experience Reality, Emerging Theology, The Filipino Physician Today, Fundamental Concepts and Methods in Statistics, Interactive Technical Writing, Mga Kuwentong Maranao, Talinghaga ng Gana, History & Culture, Language and Literature (Selected Essays of Teodoro A. Agoncillo)"
Univ. of Santo Tomas Publishing House

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2003

10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M./Function Rms. A & B
Seminar
OMF Literature, Inc.

4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Book Launching
The Jubilee Student Edition Series, "Reconnaissance, Last Order sa Penguin, Onyx, Tinik sa Dila, The Firewalkers, Little Reports, Tilad sa Dilat, A Tropical Winter's Tale & Other Stories" / Other Titles, Mass Communication and Philippine Society, Ang Pag-aaral ng Wika, The Creative Non-Fiction Manual, The Creative Non-Fiction Reader"
University of the Philippines Press

5:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
Launching
"An Easter People: Our Christian Vocation to be Messengers of Hope, Bishop of Imus, Cavite & Medjas"
Jesuit Communications Foundation & Ateneo de Manila University Press

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OBITUARIES

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever...

Psalms 41:13

"A Loving Husband, Father, Brother and Grandpa"

VICENTE E. DEL ROSARIO (TENTENG)

His bereaved wife **STELLA SANTIAGO DEL ROSARIO**,

children and children-in-law:
VICTOR & **Evelyn (Morales)**
VIRGILIO & **Corazon (Paredes)**
VERONICA & **Amado Santos**
VICENTA & **Edgardo Laurena**
VALERIANO & **Marie Clarice (Arenas)**

sisters **ELENA** & **Dra. JESUSA del Rosario**,

grandchildren & great granddaughter
Ria & **Tonio Veloso** and **Natalia**, **Vince**
Ali, **Joseph**,
Leini
Tyge, **Tommi**
VA, **Vittorio**;

other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Mount Carmel Church, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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302-6447

The management and employees of

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES

deeply condole with the family of

MELINDA LUZ "Amy" M. VICTOR

(1960-2003)

Assistant Vice President - Catering Services
who passed away on August 28, 2003
after a brave struggle with a lingering illness.

She will be missed by her husband Ting, children Paolo and Rafael,
parents Judge Jesus & Erlinda Magno, brothers Carlo & Tom-Tom
and her colleagues at Philippine Airlines.

Her body lies in state at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City,
to be transferred to the Sacred Heart Church in Cebu on August 31, 2003.

Interment will be on September 3, 2003 after the 1 PM mass.

I am
the way,
the truth
and the life.
No one comes
to the Father
except
through
Me.

John 14:6

ERIBERTO "KABESA/VER" A. RIVERA
President
Federation of Senior Citizens of Alfonso Cavite

Joined his Creator on this 27th day of
August 2003 at the age of 73.

His bereaved wife Tidy, loving children, grandchildren, mother-in-law, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at No. 32 Burgos Street Poblacion,
Alfonso Cavite
Interment will be announced later

VICENTE H. LOPEZ, JR.

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on August 28, 2003 at the age of 84.

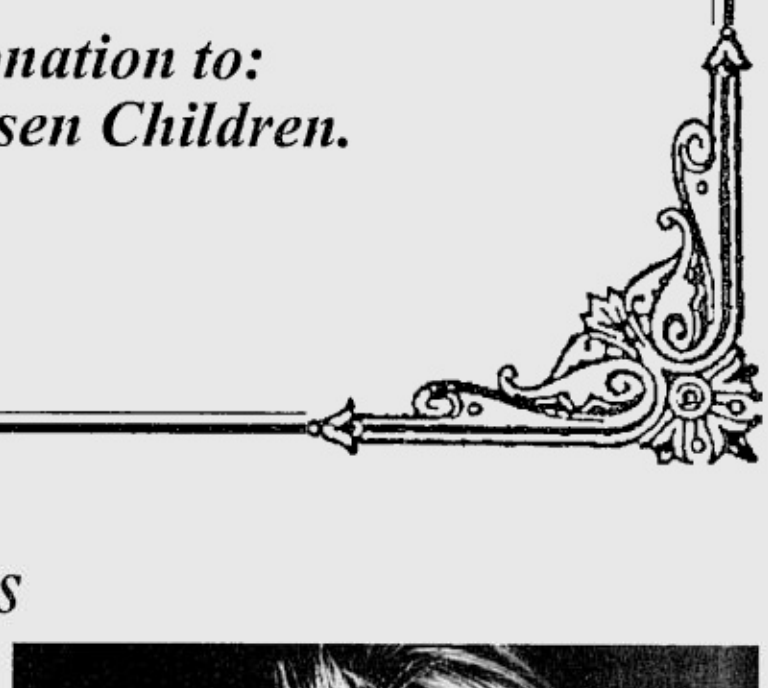
He is survived by his loving wife **MARI LOPEZ**;
children **LULU** and **NICK** (†), **LENGGAY** and **ROB**, **TESS**,
RORY, **VINCENT** and **MAITET**, **JOSE MARI** and **ESTER**;
grandchildren **CARLO** and **CHARISSE**, **NICOLE** and **NOEL**,
CELESTE, MARCEL (†), **REGINE**, **ALEXIS**, **MARTIN**,
ROSANNA, **JAMYL**, **LYKA**, **KIARA**, **MICHAEL**,
FRANCINE, **JAVIER** and **ANGELA**.

His body lies in state at the Santuario de San Antonio,
Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 31, 2003 at 2:00 p.m.
at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

In lieu of flowers, please send your donation to:
St. John Mary Vianney Seminary or Chosen Children.

Jodie Brooke Wilson at the Podium



AUSTRALIAN-born singer and songwriter Jodie Brooke Wilson will perform live at The Podium on Saturday, Aug. 30. The performance is presented by Astrovision Plus in cooperation with MCA Universal and Jam 88.3.

Enjoy an afternoon of jazz and easy listening as Wilson sings some of the hits from her MCA Universal album "Halfway to Paradise". These include "Temporary Madness", "Promise Me", "At Seventeen", and "Love Called My Name".

Jodie's voice is said to be comparable to that of Karen Carpenter or Eva Cassidy's, is filled with much devotion and depth that comes from the heart. Musical talent, it seems, runs in the family. "My grandmother won a singing competition in 1914 when she was just 9 years old," she says. "Her gold medal was presented to her by the legendary escapologist Harry Houdini, and part of her prize was a singing scholarship to Germany. Her father, however, disapproved, and that was the end of her promising career. Perhaps I'm fulfilling her destiny."

Jodie was born in Sydney, but now lives in the United Kingdom where she enjoys success as a songwriter. In Europe, her song "I Want What She's Got" spent 10 weeks at number one. The song "Higher Than Heaven", which she cowrote for the double platinum album for the girl band Bardot, was also used for the theme for the Sydney 2000 Olympics, and on the soundtrack of "Rugrats." "Show Me Now", which she sang and wrote, was included in the soundtrack of the blockbuster comedy "Scary Movie."

She has collaborated with some of the best songwriters, including Cathy Dennis (Kylie's "Can't Get You Out of My Head"), Mark Mueller (for the hit song "Crush"), David Frank (for Christina Aguilera's "Genie in a Bottle"), John Bettis (who wrote many of the hit songs of the Carpenters), and Tia Sillers (Grammy Award winner for song of the year), among others.

Catch Jodie Brooke Wilson live at the Podium's Second Floor Activity area on Aug. 30 at 6 p.m.

Clips

Top programmers named

WHO IS the country's best Internet applications programmer? Whose program will revolutionize the Java-based mobile application on a global scale? Find out during the awarding ceremonies for the winners of the first Mobile Internet Applications Programming Competition on Aug. 29 at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel jointly sponsored by German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Nokia Philippines, and the European IT Service Center. Contest judges have chosen four top winners and 12 concept winners. First prize winner gets P150,000 and a trip for two to Europe, second prize winner receives P75,000 and a trip for two to Singapore, third prize winner is entitled to P50,000 and a Nokia phone while the fourth prize winner will bring home P25,000 and a Nokia phone. 12 concept winners will receive P25,000 each.

Red Horse Muziklaban

BRACE yourself for the loudest, strongest and meanest rock showdown in the country! Now on it's fifth year, Red Horse Muziklaban Rock Challenge will unleash the Philippines' best amateur bands who will slug it out to become this year's national grand finals champion. Only 45 bands survived the grueling screening process-ensuring that the bands who set foot on the stage are the fiercest and most brilliant of all. Witness the battle commence at Tomas Morato, Quezon City; Nevada Square, Baguio; The Venue, Laguna; Orosia Park, Cebu City and Jack Ridge, Matina, Davao on Aug. 29 and see these guys growl and swing their axes at the most intense and highly charged rock arena to date. And as if the musical fray isn't enough, Red Horse is also bringing in Greyhoundz, Chico Sci, Kamikazee, Bamboo, Razorback, Sugarfree, Monsterbot, Urban Dub, Sandwich, Twisted Halo, Cheese, Imago and Slapshock to make this year's string of events more exhilarating. 18th Issue, last year's Muziklaban winner, will also be there to lead the crowd towards a funk explosion.

Toyem Marikina marks 4th Year

THE SEARCH for the Ten Outstanding Young Employees of Marikina City is held for the fourth consecutive year. Popularly dubbed as Toyem, the event is a much-awaited undertaking among the youth employed in various firms in the city.

Toyem is corporate citizenship in action. It was established in 2000 to recognize the outstanding contributions of young employees in the work place. It also affirms the awards and accolades given by companies to their respective employees ages 18 to 28 years old. The categories include manufacturing, socio civic, government service, food service, health care, academe, communication/publishing, and small medium scale enterprises.

"Gabi ng Parangal", the awards night of Toyem 2003, was held at the plush Skyline Riverbend Hotel and Convention Center. The keynote speech of Mayor Marides C. Fernando was read by Vice Mayor Marion Andres.

Toyem is a production of MMA Media Inc. with the following companies providing support and assistance: Medic One Step Urine Pregnancy Test, Purefoods Beefies Hotdog, Mister Donut, Vicks Vaporizer by KAZ, Philippine Daily Inquirer, DZAR Angel Radio, Joey 92.3 Rhythms, Tanduay and Café Puro.

EOMS launches extensive 2003 Labor Code updates

EXECUTIVE On-line Management Solutions Inc, the pioneer in on-line consulting, launches a nationwide labor information blitz. EOMS Inc provides a fresh approach to labor education training in its series of seminars for the months of August, September and October.

2003 Updates on the Philippine Labor Code is a series of labor education and human resource management courses, which aim to provide corporate entrepreneurs and executives new approaches to maintaining industrial peace and promote corporate productivity.

Highlighted in this quarter's training forum are the Tripartite Relationship of Management, Labor and the Department of Labor and Employment. 2003 Updates on the Philippine Labor Code Seminars will focus on much-needed updated information on the latest Department of Labor and Employment Order issuance, giving special attention to the expansion of learnable trades under DOLE Department Order No. 02 amendments to the Labor Relations Law under DOLE Department Order 40-2003 Department Order 18-02, guidelines on Labor contracting, Department Order No 19-02, amendments to Alien's Working Permit and specific guidelines in DOLE Labor inspection.

Seasoned labor analyst and management consultant Edith S. Bayoneta spearheads the illustrious panel of Resource Speakers composed of Ms. Vivian S. Fuentes, DOLE Voluntary Arbitrator, Mr. Gil Caragayan, veteran Senior Conciliator-Mediator of DOLE NCMB and Mr. Ruben H. Arca, U.S. trained Industrial Relations Specialist. To lend their expertise in Labor Management Relations are officers of the Department of Labor & Employment.

Seminar forums are scheduled on Sept. 2, 3, 4 and 5 at Marco Polo Hotel, Davao City, Sept. 11, 12, 19 and 20 at Bayview Hotel, Manila City and Sept. 23, 24, 25 and 26 at Reneka Hotel, Baguio City.

Interested parties may call the Secretariat of EOMS Inc at (02) 809-03-(02) 842-22-13, or send your inquiries to EOMS Inc e-mail at secretariat@eoms.com.ph. Discounted seminar fees shall be given to participants with reservations.

Office of the President
Republic of the Philippines
CLARK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Clark Special Economic Zone, Pampanga

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Clark Development Corporation (CDC) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested suppliers for the hereunder listed project:

"SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF COMPUTERS & SOFTWARE LICENSES FOR CLARK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'S LEASE-TO-OWN PROJECT"

The project includes supply, delivery and installation of 199 computers (desktop and laptop) with software licenses, provision of maintenance, warranties, technical support and after-sales services and trainings.

Interested parties may submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and Eligibility Form for bidding not later than **September 10, 2003** (9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) at the Office of BAC Secretariat, 3rd Floor, Bldg. 2127, E. Quirino Ave., CSEZ Pampanga. Interested suppliers/parties are hereby required to submit the accomplished Eligibility Statement and LOI, with the requirements:

a) DTI/SEC registration, Mayor's permit/Municipal License, Tax Payer Identification Number, Sworn statement of the bidder that it is not "blacklisted nor barred from bidding in any government agency, office or corporation;
b) Certified copy of Income Tax Return (ITR) and audited financial statements, stamped and received by the BIR, for the last three (3) succeeding years;
c) Certificate of Authorized Distributorship for the equipment;
d) Certified list of contract and acceptance of similar completed projects for the last three (3) years.

Issuance of Eligibility Form will be on **August 22 to September 3, 2003** (9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) at BAC Secretariat, 3rd Floor, Bldg. 2127 upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php 5,000.00.

The Approved Budget for the Project to be Bid is **Php 14 million.**

Only those who are qualified for the said project shall be invited and notified for the schedule of pre-bid and bidding conferences. Bid/Tender Documents are available for issuance to qualified contractors at the above-cited address upon payment of non-refundable fee of Ten Thousand Pesos (Php 10,000.00).

CDC reserves the right to reject any or all applications on all bids without offering any reason, waive any formality, informality/and/or defect and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government, nor does CDC guarantee that an award will be made.

Submission and opening of bids shall be announced in the Notice of Eligible Bidders.

All inquiries and letters shall be addressed to:

The BAC Secretariat
Clark Development Corporation
3rd Floor, Bldg. 2127, E. Quirino Avenue, CSEZ, Pampanga

(Sgd.) **ROMEO N. DYOCO, JR.**
Chairman
Bids and Award Committee

(PDI - Aug 22 & 29, 2003)

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PRODUCT SPECIALIST

(Construction Materials)

- Fresh graduates are welcome
- Must possess good market potentials
- Hardworking and Trustworthy

Interested applicants may bring their resumé and 2x2 ID picture to:

Whistler Steel Industries Corp.
27 Sampaguita Compd., Granada St., Quezon City
Tel. Nos. **721-2410 • 724-6524**

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Palawan
Municipality of Sofronio Española

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that **CELIA ALIM VASQUEZ** has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from Cecilia to Celia in the birth certificate of Cecilia Alim who was born on June 9, 1955 at Sipalay, Negros Occidental and whose parents are Felino Alim and Federica Lirazan.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than 18 August 2003.

(Sgd.) MYRNA M. DOCTO-MAGALLANES
Municipal Civil Registrar

(PDI--Aug. 29 & Sept. 5, 2003)

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MR. GRAEME MORRELL
MR. ROBBIE KEARNEY

SPEAKERS/LECTURERS & IMMIGRATION EXPERTS
AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

August 30, 2003 (1st Batch, 170 slots available)
August 31, 2003 (2nd Batch, 170 slots available)

Time: 1:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Venue: 4th Floor, MERIT PHILIPPINES
LABODA Building
1139 España corner Adelina Street,
(near Lerma overpass, Mcdonald's
at the Ground Floor, Sampaloc, Manila)

Seminar Fee: P600.00 (inclusive of snacks)
For details & reservation please contact:
Tel. Nos. 721-4188; 722-0964; 721-7370 ask for Vivian, Merle, Marie & Rachma
FIRST COME FIRST SERVED basis in an air-conditioned
170 sitting capacity seminar/lecture room

PHILIPPINE 2000

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

August 26, 2003

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Social Welfare and Development-Central Office (DSWD-CO) is inviting all interested parties to a public sealed bidding on the disposal and sale, BY LOT and on an "AS IS WHERE IS" basis, the following unserviceable motor vehicles and ready-to-eat-food (RTEF) processing and preservation machines:

	Article and Description	Minimum Bid
	One (1) Lot Unserviceable Motor Vehicles and Packing Machines	
1.	School Bus, 1982 Isuzu, SAS-583	P 28,700.00
2.	HSPUR, 1983 Ford Fierra, SBD-312	9,700.00
3.	Car Sedan, 1988 Nissan Sentra, SBY-282	22,000.00
4.	Pick-Up, 1987 Toyota, SEB-906	28,200.00
5.	Pick-Up, 1984 Isuzu KB, SDN-462	15,600.00
6.	Shuttle Bus, 1970 Isuzu, NXF-809	30,900.00
7.	Cargo Truck, 1987 International Harvester S-1900,SDN-452	59,400.00
8.	Passenger Bus, Hino RF, SEK-807	45,600.00
9.	Car Sedan, 1988 Nissan Sentra, SBY-292	22,000.00
10.	Filling and Sealing Machine, Toyo-Jidoki IT-8C, SN-1174	48,000.00
11.	Vacuum Packaging Machine, Shindaigo 835-50, SN-12060	32,000.00
12.	Wagon Engine, 1992 Mitsubishi Pajero (SEK-194)	450.00
13.	Bus Engine, 1985 International Harvester SR-1700 (SEE-393)	600.00
	Total Minimum Lot Bid Price	P 343,350.00

Interested bidder/s may inspect the said unserviceable properties at DSWD-CO Compound, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City during regular working days from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting September 01 to September 10, 2003

Bid documents can be secured from the DSWD-Disposal Committee Secretariat located at the Ground Floor of the DSWD New Building, at the same address during the inspection dates

A Bid Bond corresponding to at least 10% of the total lot bid price in the form of cash, cashier's check or manager's check shall be required and enclosed in an envelope together with the bid proposal.

Submit your bid proposal not later than 4:00 p.m. of September 11, 2003 addressed to the Chairperson stated below:

The Chairperson
Disposal Committee
2nd Floor, DSWD-CO New Building
Batasan Pambansa Complex
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

Opening of bids will be on September 12, 2003 at exactly 1:00 p.m. at the DSWD Administrative Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Batasan Hills, Quezon City.

The DSWD hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to waive any formality therein or to accept such bid/s that may be considered most advantageous to the government

(Sgd.) **Asst. Secretary RHODA F. YAP**
Chairperson, Disposal Committee

(PDI - Aug. 29, 30 & 31, 2003)

PNOC

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Building I, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 893-6001 to 47 local 2101-2104
Direct Line: 840-2024/Fax No.: (632)840-1459

INVITATION TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites interested contractors to submit sealed bids for the **General Hospitalization Insurance Policy (HR 03-831 R1).**

The Approved Budget for the project is Php 1,076,115.02.

Only contractors who will comply with PNOC EC's eligibility and prequalification requirements shall be allowed to participate in the public bidding.

Tender Documents shall be available for issuance at the above address from the Contracts Secretariat (c/o Mr. Carlos L. Mejias and Mr. George N. Alejandro) from **August 22 to September 5, 2003**, upon presentation of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: Three Hundred (PHP 300.00).

The bidding shall utilize a two (2) sealed envelope system. The first envelope shall contain the Technical Bid and the second envelope shall contain the Financial Bid. The Technical & Financial Bids shall be submitted in two (2) sets each to the Contracts Secretariat not later than **3:30 P.M. of September 15, 2003** at the PNOC EC Conference Room located at the above address and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a Pre-bid Conference will be held on **September 8, 2003, 2:00 P.M.** at the PNOC EC Conference Room located at the above address.

PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC EC.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and in the DBM website at www.procurementservices.net.

(Sgd.) **RICARDO S. BASALLO, JR.**
Chairman
Contracts Award Committee

(PDI – August 29, 2003)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY

A large reputable Bank in Makati is accepting proposals to prequalify to bid for the printing of the following items:

WALL CALENDAR (50,000 pcs.)
DESK CALENDAR (15,000 pcs.)
EXECUTIVE PLANNER (2,000 pcs.)
APPOINTMENT DIARY (2,000 pcs.)
CHRISTMAS CARD (2,000 pcs.)
POCKET CALENDAR (100,000 pcs.)
GIFT WRAPPER (5,000 pcs.)

All Color Seps, Negative/Page Lay-out will be supplied to proponent:

The job will include printing of above items and related services. The Bank requires the following to be submitted together with the formal offer to prequalify:

1. Printed samples of wall calendar, desk calendar, pocket calendar, planner, diary and gift wrapper or similar items;
2. Proof that the proponent has at least five years experience in color printing;
3. Certification that proponent has worked with advertising agencies for the production of calendar and planners;
4. Company profile, track record and references from clients;
5. Proof that proponent has complete line of modern printing facilities (from pre-press to finishing);
6. Printing press should be located within Metro Manila;
7. Written conformity to the following conditions:
   - Background check especially from previous clients shall be conducted by the Bank;
   - Visit to check on equipment and other facilities; and
   - Submission of a refundable deposit of Manager's Check of at least 10% of the contract price when required.
8. Audited Financial Statement for the last two years (2001-2002);
9. Copy of the Income Tax Return for the last two years (2001-2002); and
10. Proof of Registration of business.

The Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids/offers/proposals, waive any formalities found therein and accept the bid(s) that is considered most advantageous to the Bank. The decision of the Committee is final and binding. Please address formal offer to:

The CHAIRPERSON
Committee on Corporate Gifts
P.O. Box 1996
Makati Commercial Center 1200

The Committee shall accept all submission postmarked later than September 5, 2003.

(PDI–Aug. 29 & 31, 2003)

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo
Quezon City

August 14, 2003

INVITATION TO BID

The Chief of Engineers, AFP is inviting contractors with IAC Category of Medium "B" and above & accredited by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board to submit sealed bids for the Construction of Food Services Building and Supply of Kitchen Equipment at Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center (AFPMC), V. Luna Road, Quezon City, Zip Code # 0840.

Interested contractors possessing the above qualification may apply for pre-qualifications by securing PRE-C form beginning **August 18, 2003** from Project Management Division, Office of the Chief of Engineers, AFP Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00). Deadline for the submission of duly accomplished PRE-C with all the supporting documents and the original copy of PCAB Certificate for authentication purposes shall not be later than 5:00 p.m. of **September 5, 2003.**

Bid/Tender Documents will be issued to all pre-qualified contractors starting **September 15, 2003**. A pre-bid conference for the project will be on **October 1, 2003** at 9:00 a.m. at Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center (AFPMC) Conference Room, V. Luna Road, Quezon City. All bids from pre-qualified contractors must be submitted to and received not later than 10:00 a.m. of **October 8, 2003** at the AFPMC Conference Room, V. Luna Road, Quezon City, after which time, all bids will be publicly opened.

This office reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any formality, technicality and/or defect and to make the award to the bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the government. This office neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids nor does the office guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **SERGIO A CANDELARIO JR**
Brigadier General, AFP
The Chief of Engineers, AFP

(PDI - Aug 18, 22 & 29, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
Km. 5 J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City, Philippines
Tel. No.: 221-9400 (connecting all departments)
Tel. Nos.: 221-6218 to 19 (Regional Training Center, Madapo Hill, Davao City)
Fax: (82) 226-4885

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Davao City Water District (DCWD) hereby invites all interested Consultancy Firms/Partnership and Associates that are registered with the Bureau of Domestic Trade and with the Securities and Exchange Commission, engaged in Organizational Development Studies for the review and evaluation of organizational pattern and preparation of Appropriate Design of Organizational Pattern for DCWD, being a Government-Owned and Controlled Corporation (GOCC).

APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT P606,237.36

Eligibility requirements are available at the DCWD PEACC c/o The Office of the General Manager starting September 1, 2003, during its business hours. Deadline for the submission of eligibility documents/requirements will be on September 19, 2003. Only pre-qualified bidders can avail the bid documents and Terms Of Reference (TOR) upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php500.00.

Pre-bid Conference is set on October 31, 2003 at 2:00 P.M. at the DCWD Regional Training Center, Madapo Hills, Davao City; Schedule for the Submission and Opening of Bids will be on November 7, 2003 at 2:00 P.M. at DCWD Board Conference Room, Bajada, Davao City.

DCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality/informality of the bids received and to accept only such bids which are advantageous to the District.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. EDWIN V. REGALADO**
Chairman, Pre-qualification, Evaluation & Awards
Committee for Consultancy (PEACC)

(PDI – Aug. 29 & Sept. 5, 2003)

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PNOC Energy Companies Bldg., Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1201 Makati City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO Tel. No. 893-6001/1320

RE-INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC – Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

TWO (2) YEARS CONTRACT FOR THE REPAIR/FABRICATION OF VARIOUS DRILLING TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT USING API SPEC. 7 EDC03-032-1

The Approved Budget is P16,641,400.00 chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 2 years.

Application Forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o R.A. Sison) starting **August 29, 2003** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Five Hundred (P500.00)

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **September 12, 2003, 2:30 p.m.** at the ground floor, conference room of PNOC-EDC's Building V.

Applications for Eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group at the above address not later than **2:00 p.m. of September 30, 2003** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC

BAC CHAIRMAN

(PDI–Aug. 29, 2003)

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1 SPY KIDS 3D	1 FINDING NEMO	Art Film 1 BEST OF CINEMANILA	THX 1 SPY KIDS 3D 11:30	THX PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN	2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN	2 BEST OF CINEMANILA	THX 2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN	2 SPY KIDS 3D
3 LXG	THX 3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN	Digital BEAUTY & THE BEAST (THE MUSICAL PLAY) Sept. 18 - 7PM	TALK TO HER - 12:20, 3:40, 6:00 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 8:15, 11:00	3 THE ITALIAN JOB
4 THE ITALIAN JOB	4 WAKING UP IN RENO		4 FINDING NEMO 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30	4 VIEW FROM THE TOP
	5 THE ITALIAN JOB		5 THE ITALIAN JOB 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20	5 FINDING NEMO
	6 SPY KIDS 3D			
	VIEW FROM THE TOP			

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5 VISIBLE SECRET
6 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

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1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS

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PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 FINDING NEMO
2 NOON AT NGAYON

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1
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3

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(FTI, Taguig) TEL. 776-74-21

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2 WINASAK NA PANGARAP
3
4

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Gotesco City
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1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
4 RESERVE
5 WALKING UP IN RENO
6 KEKA
7 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
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9 ITALIAN JOB

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2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1 FINDING NEMO
2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 KEKA
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
5 ITALIAN JOB
6 SPY KID-2
7 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
8 NENA INOCENTE
9 VISIBLE SECRET

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

1 VISIBLE SECRET
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
3 KEKA
4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
5 RESERVE

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 LEAGUE OF EXTRA ORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 KEKA
3 SPY KID-2
4 NENA INOCENTE
5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

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(Manila) tel 733.2470

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Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

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1 SPY KID-2
2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
4

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2 SPY KID-2
3 KEKA
4 RESERVE
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2 RESERVE

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(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 . 879.2029

1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
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2 NOON AT NGAYON
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2 KEKA
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3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 FINDING NEMO
5 SNAKE LADY

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(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

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3 RESERVE

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2 WWW.XXX.COM
3 ITALIAN JOB

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2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 BAD BOYS-2
4

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(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 NENA INOCENTE
2 KEKA
3 RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 A VIEW FROM THE TOP
2 NENA INOCENTE
3 IN LAWS
4

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-5001 TO 03

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
2 A VIEW FROM THE TOP
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 ITALIAN JOB

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(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121

1 ALEX & EMMA
2 FINDING NEMO
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
4 ITALIAN JOB

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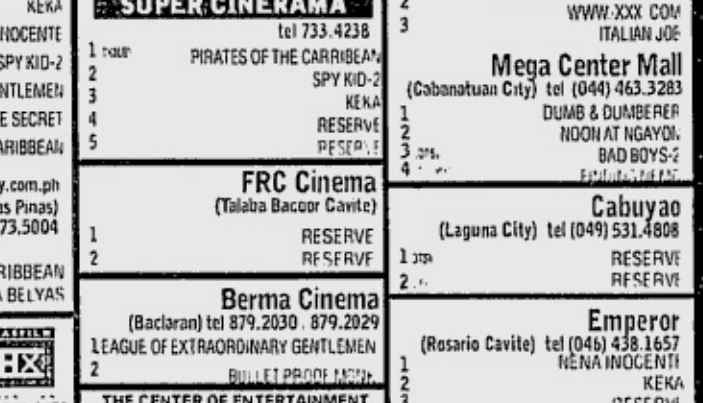

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3 SPY KIDS 3-D
4 LXG
5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
6 NOON AT NGAYON
7 KEKA
8 ITALIAN JOB

SM CENTERPOINT
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1 LXG
2 ITALIAN JOB
3 SPY KIDS 3-D
4 WWW.XXX.COM
5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
6 WAKING UP IN RENO
7 FINDING NEMO
8 BAD BOYS 2
9 NOON AT NGAYON
10 VIEW FROM THE TOP

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
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1 ITALIAN JOB
2 VISIBLE SECRET
3 WWW.XXX.COM
4 SPY KIDS 3-D
5 NOON AT NGAYON
6 LXG
7 FINDING NEMO
8 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
9 WAKING UP IN RENO
10 VIEW FROM THE TOP
11 BAD BOYS 2
12 KEKA

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 SPY KIDS 3-D
2 LXG
3 TALK TO HER
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
5 ITALIAN JOB
6 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
7 WAKING UP IN RENO
8 VIEW FROM THE TOP
9 NOON AT NGAYON
10 BAD BOYS
11 FINDING NEMO
12 WWW.XXX.COM

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2 LXG
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
4 ITALIAN JOB
5 WAKING UP IN RENO
6 VIEW FROM THE TOP
7 FINDING NEMO
8 WWW.XXX.COM
9 NOON AT NGAYON
10 SPY KIDS 3-D
11 BAD BOYS 2
12 TALK TO HER

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1 ITALIAN JOB
2 FINDING NEMO
3 WWW.XXX.COM
4 NOON AT NGAYON
5 WAKING UP IN RENO
6 LXG
7 SPY KIDS 3-D
8 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1 WAKING UP IN RENO
2 FINDING NEMO
3 SPY KIDS 3-D
4 LXG
5 VIEW FROM THE TOP
6 VISIBLE SECRET
7 NOON AT NGAYON
8 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
9 ITALIAN JOB
10 WWW.XXX.COM

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1 LXG
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
3 FINDING NEMO
4 ITALIAN JOB
5 WWW.XXX.COM
6 MR. BONES
7 NOON AT NGAYON
8 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 SNAKE LADY
2 RESERVED
3 LXG
4 FINDING NEMO
5 IN LAWS
6 VIEW FROM THE TOP
7 RESERVED
8 NOON AT NGAYON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2 ITALIAN JOB
3 LXG
4 DARK WATER
5 WWW.XXX.COM
6 NOON AT NGAYON

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
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1 LXG
2 SPY KIDS 3-D
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
4 WWW.XXX.COM

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
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1 SPY KIDS 3-D
2 WWW.XXX.COM
3 KEKA
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

SM CITY DAVAO
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1 LXG
2 BANGKOK HAUNTED
3 KEKA
4 NOON AT NGAYON
5 NAKED WEAPON
6 FINDING NEMO

SM BICUTAN
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1 SPY KIDS 3-D
2 WWW.XXX.COM
3 ITALIAN JOB
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
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1 FINDING NEMO
2 DUMB & DUMBERER
3 WWW.XXX.COM
4 VIEW FROM THE TOP

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10:10 FS/10:30 MF/12:25/2:20/4:15/6:10/8:05/9:30 LFS/10:00 LMF/11:25 END

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
10:50 FS/11:20 MF/2:15/5:10/8:05/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:25 END

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2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
3 WAKING UP IN RENO 10:20, 12:25, 2:30, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00
4 LXG 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
5 SPY KIDS 3 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
6 ITALIAN JOB 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50, 11:40
7 KEKA 12:25, 2:30, 4:35, 6:45, 9:00
8 VIEW FROM THE TOP 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
9 FINDING NEMO 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
10 NOON AT NGAYON 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

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1 SPY KIDS 3 - 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
2 FINDING NEMO 10:15, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
3 ITALIAN JOB 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
4 LXG 11:15, 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:45
5 NOON AT NGAYON 11:15, 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:50
6 WAKING UP IN RENO - 10:55, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45
7 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50

Metro East
Marcos Hway
682-8193; 682-8199; 682-8280

1 ITALIAN JOB
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
3 FINDING NEMO
4 SPY KIDS 3
5 WAKING UP IN RENO
6 VIEW FROM THE TOP
7 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
8 NOON AT NGAYON

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1 SPY KIDS 3
2 ITALIAN JOB
3 VIEW FROM THE TOP
4 WAKING UP IN RENO
5 FINDING NEMO
6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
7 NOON AT NGAYON
8 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

Malabon
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288-2575

1 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 SPY KIDS 3
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
4 ITALIAN JOB

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(045) 961-5270

1 DARK WATER
2 FINDING NEMO
3 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 ALEX AND EMMA
5 ITALIAN JOB
6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

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1 SPY PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
2 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
3 NENA INOSENTE
4 SPY KIDS 3
5 ITALIAN JOB
6 FINDING NEMO

Sta. Rosa
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1 ITALIAN JOB
2 THE IN-LAWS
3 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 FINDING NEMO
5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

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1 DOWN WITH LOVE
2 THE IN-LAWS
3 FINDING NEMO
4 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
5 VIEW FROM THE TOP
6 DARK WATER

Iloilo
(033) 336-8070/78

1 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 THE IN-LAWS
3 FINDING NEMO
4 SNAKE LADY
5 NENA INOSENTE
6 VIEW FROM THE TOP

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BUSINESS

Neda sees inflation softening further

By Doris C. Dumlao
and Michelle V. Remo

THE INFLATION rate is expected to further soften to 3.2 percent in August from 3.3 percent in July as prices of commodities remain stable, Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said yesterday.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II, for his part, assured the public that prices of basic commodities would remain stable for the rest of the year despite jitters over the volatility of the peso.

Roxas said the devaluation of the peso was not expected to significantly affect prices of local commodities.

"I don't want to speculate on the performance of the peso in the coming days, but it is now beginning to show some signs of recovery," said Roxas during a press conference held by the National Price Coordinating Council. The peso closed at 54.93 to $1 yesterday.

Neri said there was not much inflationary pressure in August, especially since food supply remained stable despite recent typhoons that hit major agricultural provinces in the country.

National Economic and Development Authority director for national planning and policy Scholastica Cororaton explained that the impact of recent oil price increases would not be felt until September.

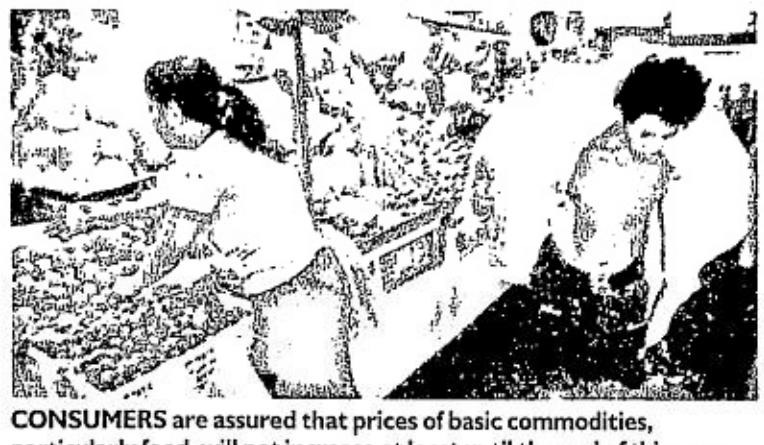
She also said the inflation outlook for August had factored in the impact of the peso depreciation.

For the full year, the Neda expects the inflation rate to average at 3-3.5 percent or way below the government's ceiling of 4.5-5.5 percent. For next year, the projected range is 4-5 percent.

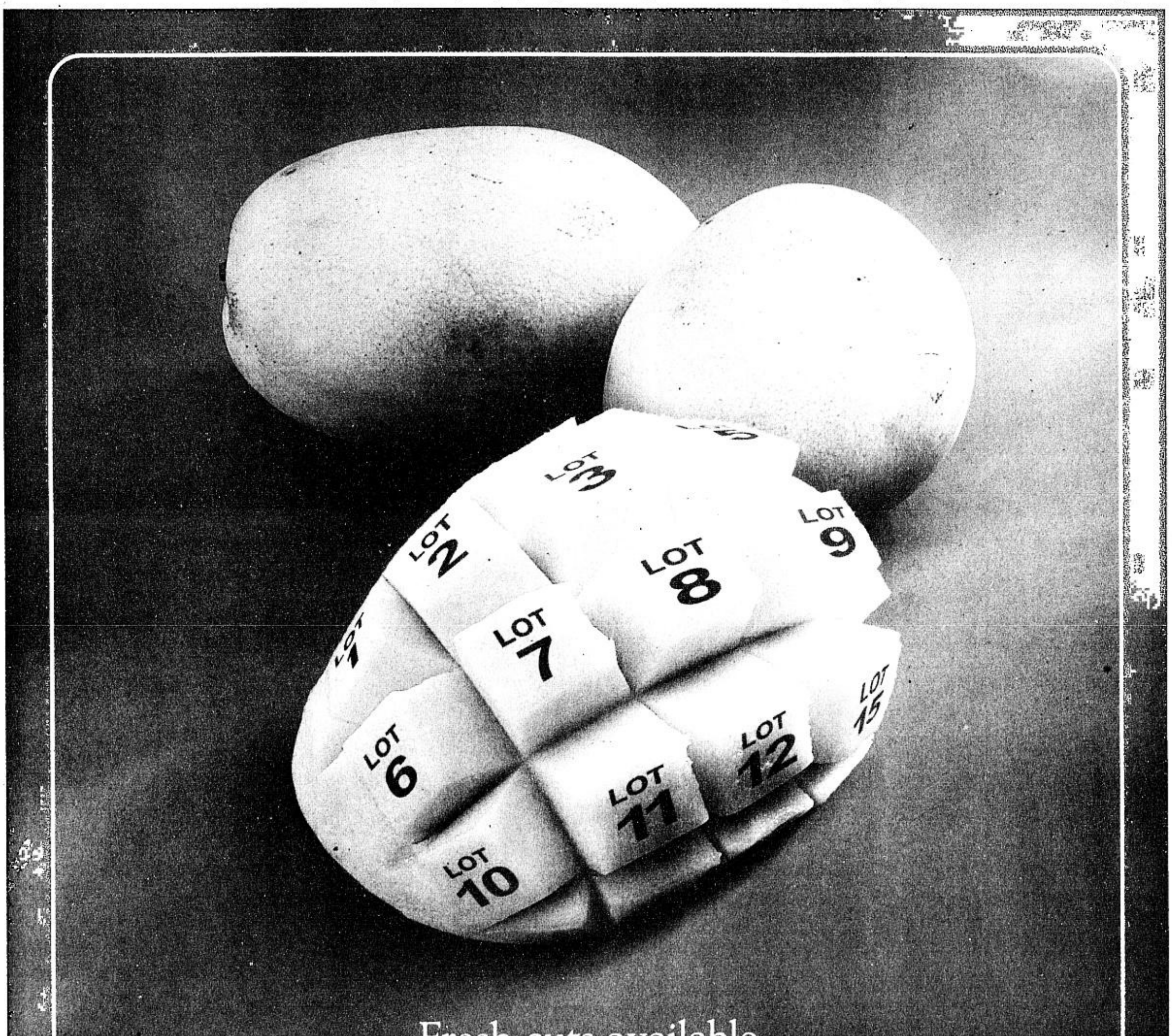
The country's annual inflation eased slightly to 3.3 percent in July from 3.4 percent in the previous month, bringing the average inflation to 3 percent for the first seven months of 2003.

During the NPCC meeting yesterday, retailers and manufacturers vowed to keep their prices at current levels despite the recent hike in gasoline prices.

Roxas said the DTI would closely monitor prices and go after retailers that would unjustly raise their prices.



CONSUMERS are assured that prices of basic commodities, particularly food, will not increase at least until the end of this year.



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BUSINESS Friday

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

3M: Marketing's most misunderstood tools

By Karen V. de Asis
Contributor

MANY may not realize that the 3Ms of marketing—marketing training, marketing research and marketing communications—can help sustain the life of a business by generating insights that may lead to the discovery of new markets, differentiated products and positioning, etc.

Know thy first M: Marketing training

Marketers are acknowledged guardians of brands. Much of the spadework and implementation leading to the brand's introduction or retention in the market is done by the marketer. Hence, systemic to the success of the brand is to continuously harness the knowledge skills of the marketer. Marketing training is a must in today's times as marketers have to be more creative in selling their brands and gaining consumer preference. But because most marketers are burdened with the day to day demands and pressures of work, they rarely have the time and opportunity to process the long-term direction of the brands nor acknowledge that their present marketing directions and actions will impact greatly on the future of their brands.

Hence, marketing-oriented organizations allocate the time and resources to provide their marketers with a renewal process that allows them the opportunity to enhance their skills, update their knowledge and provide them an avenue to process the direction of their brands.

These companies realize that key to effective marketing is the skill and knowledge capital of the marketer who develops a marketing plan that reflects fluidity in the brand's direction over the next years.

Marketing-oriented companies realize that advertising and related traditional and non-traditional marketing communications efforts are mere executions. The pièce de résistance lies in the strategy and essence of the brand, largely decided by marketer. This is where marketing-oriented organizations make a difference as they continue to invest on training for their markeitng executives.

Know thy second M: Marketing research

The success of a product or service hinges on the marketer's capability to discover and meet a target market's needs. Consumers will not find value in products or services that do not meet their needs. However, the discovery process requires the assistance of professional market research agencies and independent contractors to identify possible needs that can be the basis for a successful marketing campaign. This step, repeated over the lifetime of a brand, can be the springboard for new products or services or line and category extensions thus, enhancing the life-years of a brand.

Focus group discussions and concept tests; usage, attitude and image surveys; and the more recent measurement for customer satisfaction and loyalty such as AC-Nielsen's Customer eQ(a measure which helps determine post-purchase behavior); are but some of

3M/ B2-4

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IRONCON BUILDERS & DEVELOPERS CORPORATION

marks 25th Anniversary

25 years of solid performance

Messages

My warmest congratulations to Ironcon Builders and Development Corporation on the occasion of your Silver Anniversary.

Your quarter-century of existence is a testament to our organization's commendable effort to raise the standard of the Philippine construction industry. Your longevity as an enterprise manifests your continuing dynamism and entrepreneurial spirit which remain undiminished through the passage of time.

It is my hope that you will continue to introduce new practices and breakthroughs in construction technology for years to come.

Together, let us build the hallmarks of equitable and sustainable development as we stand united in forging a strong and stable Philippine Republic.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

I join the stockholders, officials and employees of IRONCON Builders& Development Corporation in celebrating its 25th Anniversary.

With a span of more than two decades, IRONCON Builders & Development Corporation has been able to establish itself as one of the best construction and property development firms in the country.

Further, the corporation has played a major role in the effort to attain our shared vision of bringing genuine progress to our country with its successful development projecs as well as its involvement in the various development projects of the government.

It is our fervent hope that IRONCON Builders & Development Corporation would continue to thrive as one of the leaders in the construction and property development industry in the Philippines.

Congratulations and more power!

JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.
City Mayor

The Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. extends its warmest greetings on your anniversary! ***IRONCON BUILDERS AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION*** *has come a long way with its 25 years of experience in the construction and real estate industries.*

Your company's philosophy of giving the best value to your clients is worthy of emulation. In your line of business, trust, honesty and professionalism are critical ingredients in establishing long lasting relationships with clients, and in ensuring the long-term growth and stability of your company.

In this age of globalization, stiff competition, and rapid technological advances, companies must continously develop to be ahead of the pack. May you persevere in pursuing excellence in your business.

As you pursue your company's aspirations, may you strive to always be of service to the public.

Mabuhay!

ROBIN SY
President
FEDERATION OF FILIPINO-CHINESE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, INC.

It is a long, arduous process for a company involved in construction to build a reputation so solid, so indefatigable that the very mention of its name becomes synonymous to quality. It is even more daunting to build on such a reputation as years go by, what with the continuously improving state of the construction industry in the Philippines. Yet among general contractors, the name Ironcon Builders and Development Corporation stands out, even after 25 years.

Ironcon Builders and Development Corporation is an aggressively managed corporate entity that has garnered 25 years of experience largely due to the fact that it is guided by sound principles. " We see ourselves as a well-organized company which puts a prime on being professional in our dealings with our clients, with architects, with subcontractors and with our suppliers," says Ironcon president and CEO, Jaime Lim. For Lim and the rest of the people who make up Ironcon, credibility plays an important factor in all their dealings. Which is why suppliers get paid on time, projects are delivered on time. A tremendous amount of time and effort is always spent to ensure quality workmanship. "We believe in building value into relationship by using quality people and quality products. Our goal is to develop long lasting relationships based on trust, honesty and professionalism. We work hard to earn our clients' satisfaction and respect because we want to keep our relationships with them growing." admits Lim.

Ironcon's list of achievements and projects are proof of their trustworthiness. Among the many construction projects that the company has built for government, institutional, corporate and private clients are the Makati Coliseum, the Ospital ng Maynila and the King Center located along C3. The company's track record is especially impressive since it is not uncommon for Ironcon to be handling as much as 20 projects at a time. The smooth workflow during such instances is ensured by the 150 people who tirelessly perform their duties like clockwork in Ironcon's head office in Intramuros, Manila.

This was not, however, always the case for Ironcon. When it opened shop 25 years ago as Ironcon Builders, a single proprietorship, it had only five people listed in its staff. The then modest business entity slowly worked its way up the construction industry ladder. Thus in 1997, Ironcon Builders was incorporated and became the entity that we know now, the Ironcon Builders & Development Corporation. Ironcon's efforts dld not go unnoticed by its peers in the industry. That is why throughout its 25 years of existence, it improved from its category "D" license as a general contractor to an "AAA" category license, as confirmed by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB).

"We see ourselves as a well-organized company which puts a prime on being professional in our dealings with our clients, with architects, with subcontractors and with our suppliers."
Jaime Lim,
President & CEO

In the mid-90s, slowly improving, Ironcon proved itself worthy of such accolade. With a tract record that was still just slowly improving, Ironcon landed a number of big projects. That string of big projects led to Ironcon's eventual growth, and the corporate entity steamrolled into the formidable construction juggernaut as it is now. Since that time, Ironcon has become the choice contractor among government and private clients alike, with anything from coliseums to office condominiums to commercial buildings now safely tucked under its belt.

Landing big projects is one thing, but keeping the projects coming is quite another. Ironcon relies on its corporate philosophy to keep the ball rolling, so to speak. Believing that there is more to value than just the lowest price. Ironcon makes it a point to stress the balance between coming up with a quality product and keeping in mind each client's need to keep costs within reach. The company makes sure that the quality of the materials used in a project and the workmanship are never compromised. In order to do this, Ironcon has invested heavily in its equipment, infrastructure and technology. Believing that the client's needs and requirements must never be compromised, the company has made sure that the knowledge, equipment, infrastructure and technology within Ironcon, at every level, is up-to-date.

Being the responsible corporate entity that it is, Ironcon has also recently taken steps to ensure that its building techniques are aligned with the changing needs of the times. In a conscious effort to be environment-friendly, for example, each and every project Ironcon goes into uses as little wood as possible. Such a gallant endeavor will, in the long-term do wonders to save our natural rainforests and hopefully inspire other such firms to do the same in the future. Excellence in the construction business, after all, is not only measured by the delivery of the client's needs, but also by a firm's adherence to the needs of the very place we call home.

In ending, Lim is quick to stress Ironcon's secret for success and longevity. He says, project delivery and clients satisfaction are the cornerstones of our organization. We will continue to strive to do our best in all our projects and be responsible for every detail we can control. Twenty-five years is a long time for a company to be in existence, God has been good to us, but we won't stop trying to become better. We will always be looking for way to improve our credibility and strengthen our clients' faith in us."

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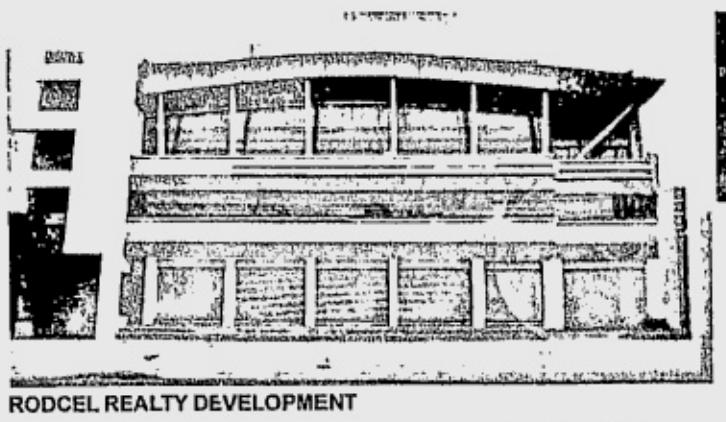
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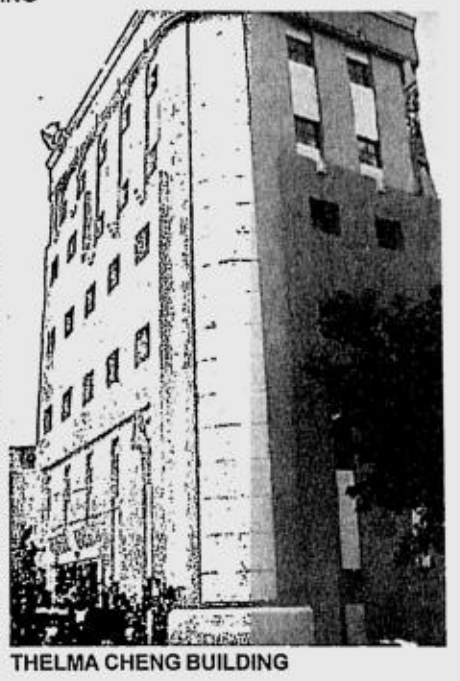
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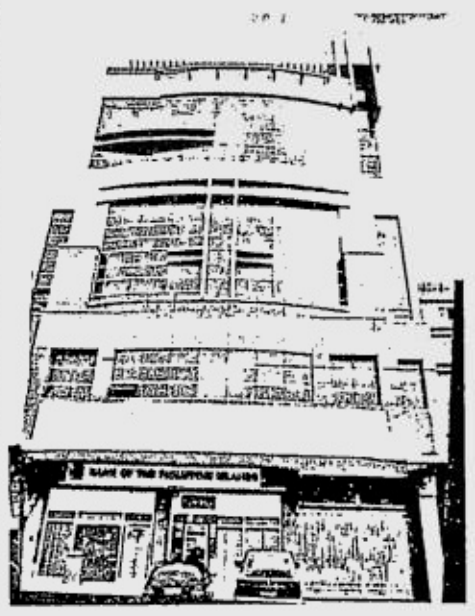
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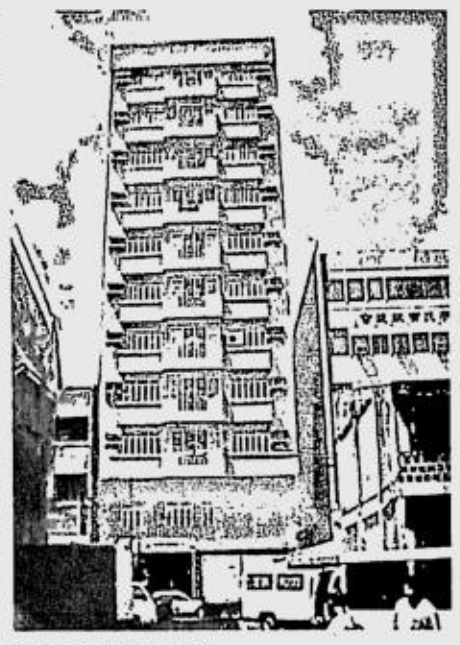
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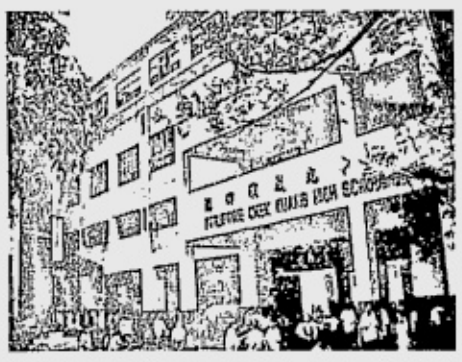
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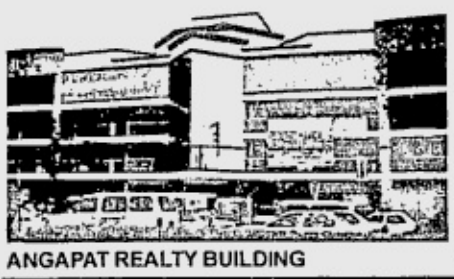
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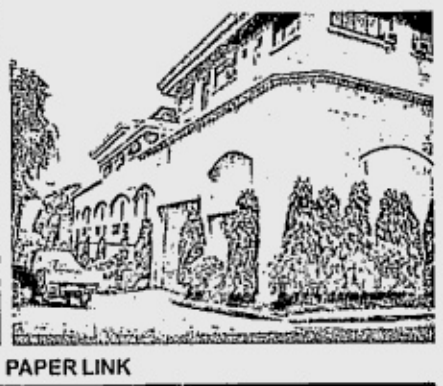
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Should you buy a car before Sept. 9?

By Ma Fides A. Balili
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

OVER the last few weeks, much has been written about the impending changes (both administrative and legislative) in the excise tax of automobiles, and the question that has since been frequently asked is:

Should I buy a car before Sept. 9 or should I wait?

On the one hand, there is Revenue Regulations No. 4-2003 which (after three deferments) is scheduled to finally take effect on Sept. 9 this year.

What RR 4-2003 does (in technical parlance) is it prescribes very specific rules in determining whether or not a vehicle (i) meets the seating capacity/measurement rules, (ii) meets the 10-seater exemption and (iii) is an automobile or not—for purposes of imposing the current 15 percent, 35 percent, 50 percent and 100 percent excise tax rates based on engine displacement and kind of fuel.

What RR 4-2003 will do is to subject to the current excise tax rates those vehicles which are currently exempted under the 10-seater exemption, but which no longer meet the more stringent rules under RR 4-2003.

In other words, prices of some vehicles will go up.

On the other hand, there is the ongoing legislative initiative to (i) reduce the excise tax rates from the current 15 percent, 35 percent, 50 percent and 100 percent, to 2 percent, 20 percent, 40 percent and 60 percent, and (ii) change the excise tax based from engine displacement and kind of fuel to net manufacturer's price.

The reduction in the excise tax rates alone is a signal in itself that the prices of vehicles should come down. This should be good for everybody: for the buyer, because prices of vehicles will go down and become more affordable; for the automotive industry, because there will be growth in the industry; and for the government, because growth in the industry should mean more revenue collection.

Unfortunately, we don't know when this legislative change will finally pass. So, while it would have been clear that buyers should not wait for this bill to become law, the other question that has arisen is: Will I be better off buying a car at a public auction in a freeport zone? *(To be continued)*

3M: Marketing's most misunderstood tools

From page B2-1

the market research tools that one can use to discover latent needs and relevant consumer insights.

Know thy third M: Marketing communications

Perceived value is key to the acquisition of a product or service. Brand-building marketing communication efforts help articulate and make public the value message behind a product or service. A marketing campaign that is one, grounded on relevant consumer insights derived from market research; two, supplemented by the marketer's expertise and knowledge of the industry and the product or service and three, communicated by traditional or non-traditional media mileage is likely to gain more success.

A highly visible communication effort often, establishes awareness, recall and preference among the target market.

During economic downtimes, despite their importance, the 3Ms are often scratched off the budgets and labeled as major expenses the company cannot momentarily afford. Ironically, the 3Ms are grounded on present time, as opportunity and momentum need to be acted upon in present time and not later. Many do not realize that the greater cost is not in the absolute peso value tied to marketing training, research and communication but in the opportunity loss of not making an investment in people skills development and brand building efforts that can help create the demand. Needless to say, the 3Ms are not only for the consumer goods sector but use of the three pillars can be applied across all industries to make businesses more competitive in a global and hyper-competitive environment.

(The author is a professor of marketing management and brand management at the De La Salle Professional School's Graduate School of Business. Feedback at kdeasis@skyinet.net)

McDonald's rolls out the service inspectors

CHICAGO—Barb Taylor spots a dirty baby-changing station, a leaky soap dispenser and a hint of graffiti inside the men's room at a McDonald's restaurant—all demerits in the world's largest fast-food company's drive to improve service.

McDonald's has been hit with a poor customer satisfaction record for several years, in turn, hurting sales and profits.

Taylor is one of an army of some 500 in-house consultants assigned to help reverse that trend.

So the former trainer at Hamburger University, McDonald's corporate management school, flushes toilets, checks pipes and does a range of other white-glove tests at some 30 Chicago-area McDonald's restaurants, evaluating everything from the taste of Big Mac sandwiches to how long it takes to fill an order.

"Bathrooms are very important to customers," says Taylor, who can also be found poking around dumpsters, measuring the internal temperature of hamburgers and timing cars at drive-thru lanes. "Is it in good condition, are things clean, is the lighting adequate?"

In a 2002 ranking of nine fast-food operators, McDonald's scored last behind rivals such as Burger King, Wendy's and Yum Brands' KFC, Taco Bell and Pizza Hut chains, according to a University of Michigan survey that tracks customer satisfaction.

The company's scores have hovered in the low 60s out of 100 possible points since 1994. Last year, the overall industry scored an average 71, with top-ranked Papa John's pizza chain reaching 76 points.

Eighteen months ago, McDonald's unveiled a new grading system to stem admitted shortfalls like slow order times and inconsistent food quality.

Uniform standards for grading all 13,600 of its US restaurants are key to a service turnaround, executives say.

Surprisingly, this is the first time such as system has been set up in the company's 50-year history. *Reuters*

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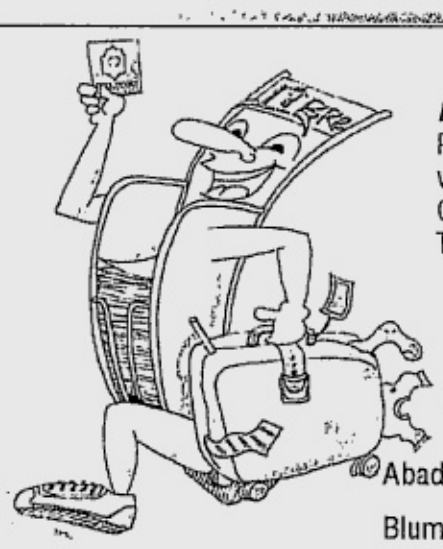

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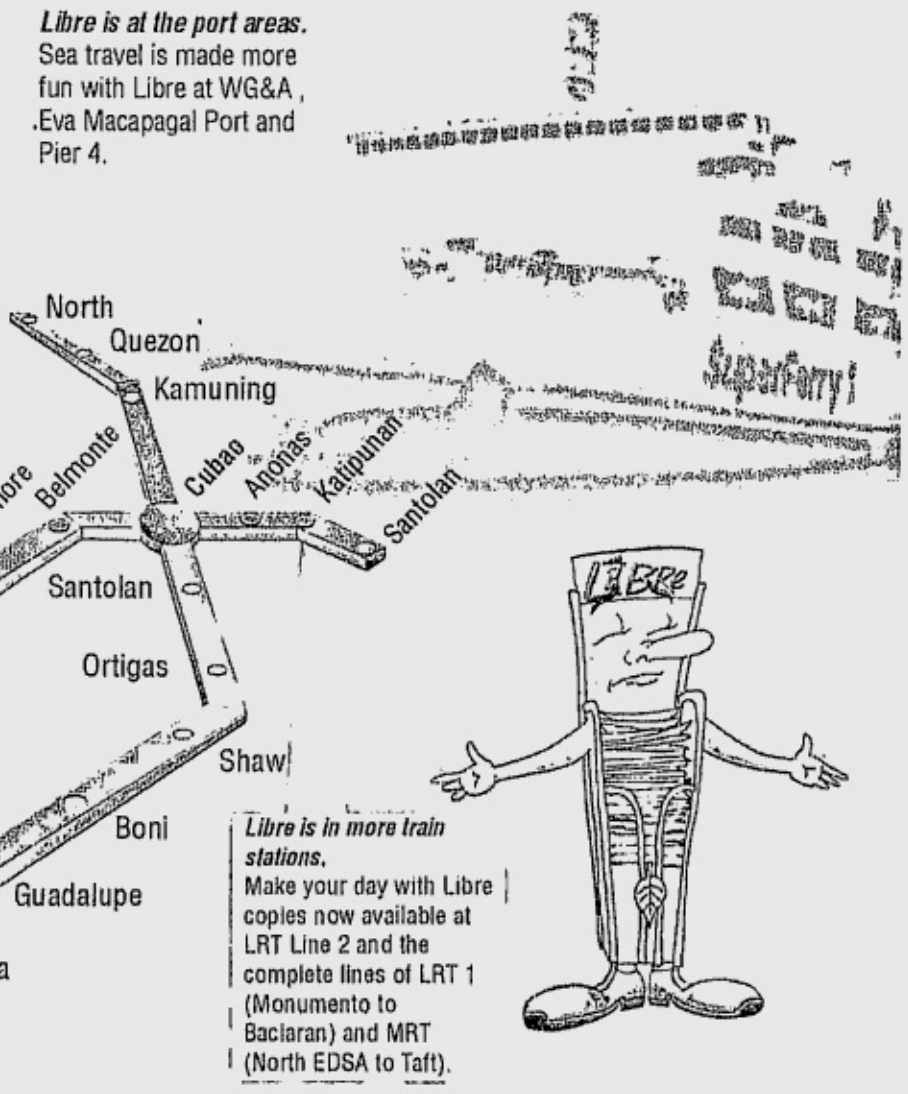

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Editor Louie C. Camino

AQUINO (left) asked to be excused from future hearings but suspects politics is behind the move against co-host Sanchez

Kris, Korina summoned by House

By Marinel R. Cruz

AN "unpleasant" statement made by broadcaster Korina Sanchez on the ABS-CBN show biz talk show "Morning Girls with Kris and Korina" has prompted the House of Representatives to conduct a congressional hearing on the culpability of broadcasting companies and broadcasters for what they say on air.

Cebu Rep. Clavel Martinez said she invited Sanchez and her co-host Kris Aquino to attend the Aug. 20 and 26 hearings conducted by the House committee on public information, but the two talk show hosts did not show up.

Another session will be held on Sept. 11, according to the lawmaker. She warned that if Sanchez would not appear in the next hearing, she would take "legal action" against the TV host.

The congresswoman said Sanchez called her "*bastos*" in the July 31 episode of "Morning Girls with Kris and Korina" because the lawmaker, disagreed with the TV host's views during deliberations on a medical malpractice bill earlier that month. Sanchez is an advocate of the medical malpractice bill.

Sanchez had attended the hearing on House Bill No. 4955, or the medical malpractice bill, that was originally filed in 1992 and revived by some lawmakers.

Martinez is a member of the committee that deliberates on the medical malpractice bill.

"Korina said I'm *bastos dahil binara ko raw siya*," Martinez told INQUIRER Entertainment on Wednesday. "But I simply questioned her on certain aspects of the bill because she is lobbying for it."

She recalled that Sanchez brought her mother along, as well as several people who claimed to have been victims of medical malpractice.

"I'm not onion-skinned," Martinez said. "But my children were hurt by what (Sanchez) did to me. She has to be taught a lesson."

Martinez said the House committee on public information last Aug. 20 and 26 deliberated on the parameters of the culpability of broadcasting

KRIS/ A8

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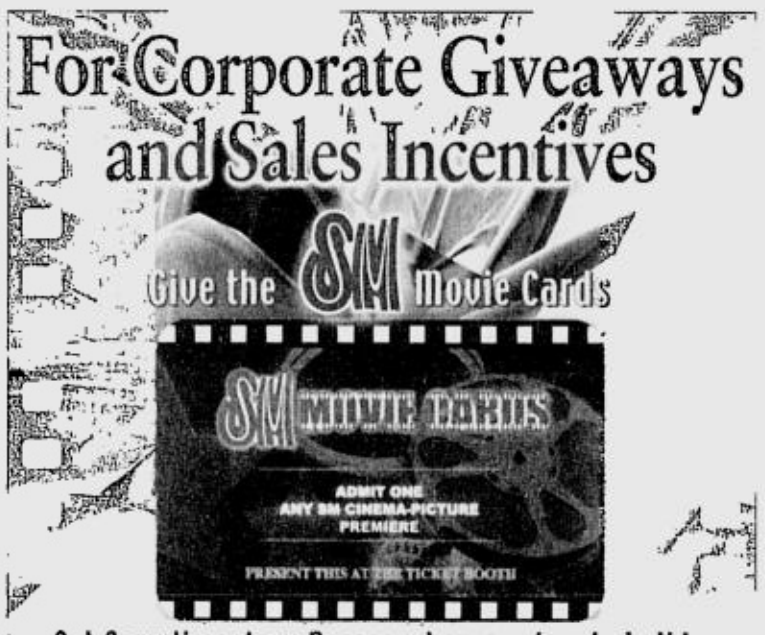

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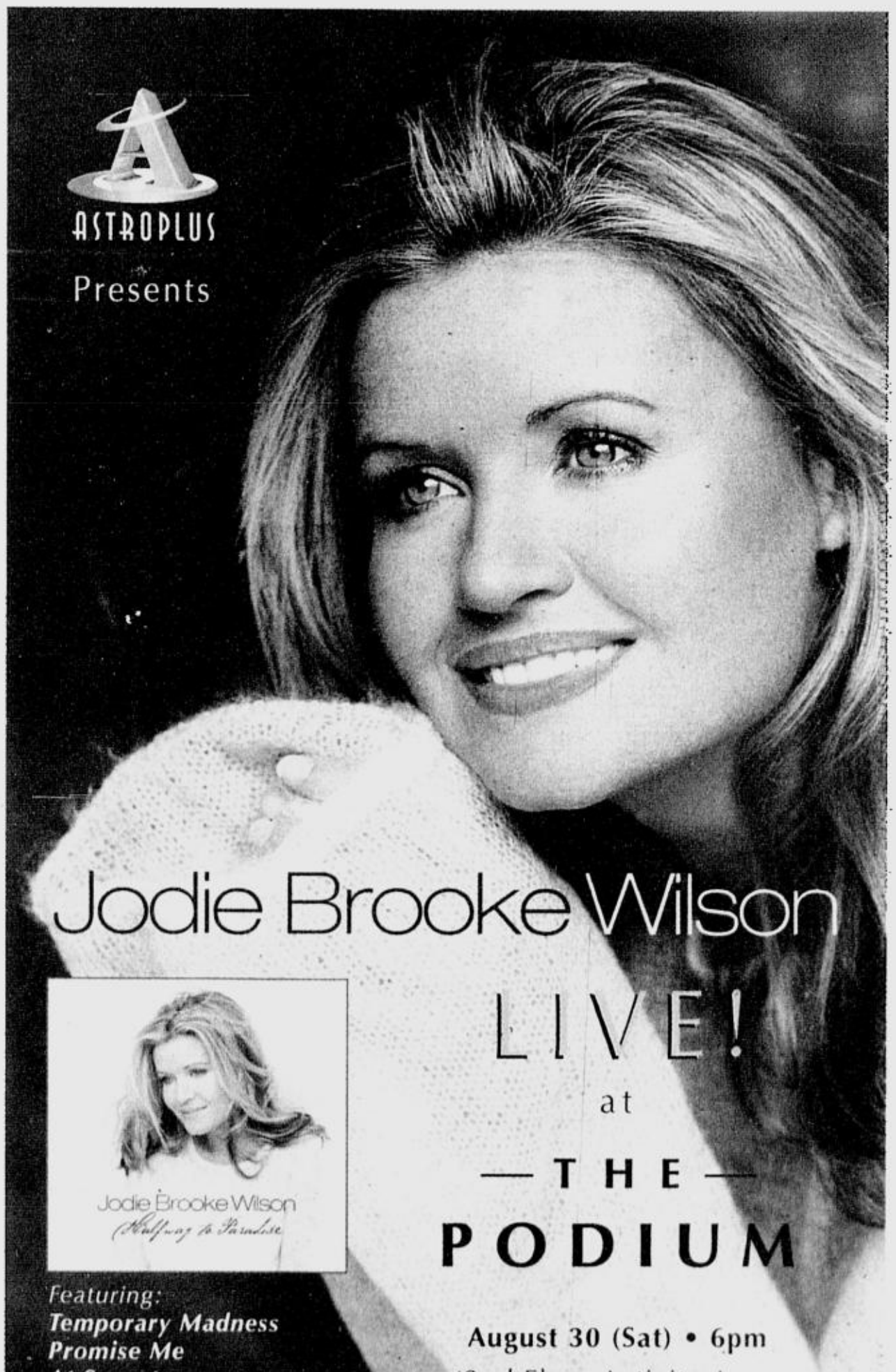

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PARALUMAN
Life with a great beauty

/C2

LIFE WITH PARALUMAN

A big adventure movie with an all-star cast

By Baby O'Brien
Contributor

MY mother was born on Dec. 14, 1923 at 12:30 a.m. at St. Paul Hospital to Tecla de Torres, a college student of Assumption on Herran (now Pedro Gil) in Manila and a native of Tayabas, Quezon, and Lothar von Giese, a titled German whose family tree can be traced to the 14th century. Von Giese was an architect known to have built the Bayview Hotel along Roxas Boulevard, which has the first floating foundation in the Philippines.

My mother's parents first had three sons: Ronald, Lothar and Sigwalt. Then came my mother, whom they named Sigrid Sophia Agatha, the youngest and only girl. She was nicknamed "Mousey" because she looked like a small mouse when she was born.

When mom was a young girl, the family lived on Leveriza Street in Malate, Manila. She also went to the Assumption Convent. In her early teens, she loved reading magazines about movie stars. When she learned that movie actress Corazon Noble was their neighbor, she would stand outside the fence of the star's house hoping to catch a glimpse of her.

She was noticed by Corazon's younger sister Lily, who became a movie star herself as Carmencita Abad. My mother and Lily became friends.

Sigrid was recommended by Norma, another sister of Corazon, to Filippine Films headed by Luis F. Nolasco. She was immediately given a screen test directed by Bert Avellana, with Leopoldo Salcedo as her partner. She passed the screen test.

For her first role, in the movie "Flores de Mayo" (1940), Nolasco gave her the screen name Mina de Gracia. She later met the late Fernando Poe Sr. at a social gathering and he offered her a place in X'otic Films as a full-fledged star when her contract with Filippine Films expired. Her first movie for X'otic Films was "Paraluman" (1941), and her screen name was changed to Paraluman, meaning, "muse." She made "Bayani ng Bayan" and "Puting Dambana" with Fernando Poe Sr.

SIGRID von Giese today

FAMAS best actress of 1957

Life during WW II

While she was working for X'otic Films, her father died of cancer. Not too soon after, World War II broke out. Sigrid met Yoshifumi Abe, a civilian connected with the propaganda department of the Japanese Army. He proposed to her a year after they became friends. She requested that he be baptized a Catholic, and he agreed.

During their marriage, my mother and father were able to help many of their friends and neighbors who were falsely accused or captured by the Japanese military. But they could not save my mother's eldest brother, Ronald, a guerrilla who was incarcerated at Fort Santiago and eventually beheaded, for killing two Japanese officials.

I was born just before the war ended and I was given a Japanese name, Kyoko, and baptized Cecile Kristin, which my mother got from a Swedish book.

My father was incarcerated during the war and was eventually sent back to Japan. While my mother had the option to live in Japan, she was not well accepted there. She and my father eventually divorced. My father became known in the art world as painter Nobuya Abe, and he later lived in Rome and was under contract with the same gallery as Pablo Picasso.

YESTERDA

A GREAT beauty who loves to sew, cook and read, knows the value of glamour and etiquette, and who taught her daughter not to judge others.

My mother went back to the movies after the war. Her first comeback movie was "La Paloma" for Sampaguita Pictures, where she co-starred with Fred Montilla, who became her love team partner.

Famas beauty

Among her other movies were "Anino ni Bathala," "Biro ng Tadhana," "Highway 54," "Tanikalang Apoy," "Palikero," "Amy, Susie, and Tessie," "Hongkong Holiday," Gerado de Leon's "Ako ang Katarungan," "Dahil sa' isang Bulaklak," "Lilit," "Kahapon Lamang," "Rosa Rossini," "Baby Face," "Ipinagbili Ko ang Aking Anak," "Sarawak," "Batong Buhay," and "Elephant Girl" for the Shaw Bros. in Singapore. In 1957, she won the Famas for her performance in "Sino ang may Sala?" In 1975, she earned a nomination for her role in "Mister Mo, Lover Boy Ko."

"SARAWAK," with the recently departed Oscar Moreno

After my mom won the Famas in 1957, Dr. Jose Vera Perez of Sampaguita said, "With this award, you are no longer just another beautiful face but an actress."

My earliest recollection of mom was watching her put on make-up. We were then living along Roxas Boulevard, then known as Dewey Boulevard. I remember one Christmas when I got a walking doll and left it out in the rain.

On another Christmas, there was little money to spare and what I got were new clothes for my many dolls. My mom made the dolls' clothes.

The glamorous Paraluman was a skilled seamstress. She made clothes for my dolls and for me. Long before cross-stitching became a fad, she was already doing that on our throw pillows, my dresses and tablecloths. She was also good at smocking and embroidery, which she learned in Assumption. She also made the christening outfits for my own two children, as well as their first-birthday clothes.

Sewing, cooking, reading

While mom was not always a hands-on mom, she made sure that we had food on the table, that I went to a good school and had all the things a child would need. She only got carried away when it came to dolls. I had so many dolls, even a Raggedy Ann doll bigger than I, and mom made sure that most of the dresses she made for me and my doll were in the same style.

When I was young, my grandmother would take me to the market, but mom would take me to buy dress material in the *bangketa* of Libertad in Pasay City. There you could buy re-

A BIG/ C3

Mom was busy and did not have too much time to spend at home with me, so she brought me to her shooting. There I would be, in a nightclub in my pajamas, eating ice cream while mom worked

A big adventure movie with an all-star cast

From page C2

tazos for really cheap. From these *retazos* my mom made me the prettiest outfits.

My mother was also an excellent cook, a trait she inherited from my grandmother. She was a good cake decorator. All my birthday cakes were homemade and decorated by Paraluman. But she kept this talent a secret because, according to her, it would detract from her image as a movie star.

Mom was a great reader. She was an Erle Stanley Gardner fan. She also likes Isaac Asimov and Ray Bradbury. These were the books I saw in our bookshelves.

She and my stepfather, her second husband, Capt. Anthony B. O'Brien, taught me to love books.

When I was young, mom was busy and did not have too much time to spend at home with me, so she brought me to her shooting locations, and at night when she would do shows and guest appearances in clubs. There I would be in a nightclub in my pajamas, eating ice cream while mom worked. She always made sure I had ice cream.

STAGE MOTHER. With her daughter, the author and granddaughter Rina Reyes

PHOTO COURTESY OF FAMILY TODAY

Aunts and uncles

Shooting was even more fun. I got to hobnob with the likes of Fred Montilla, Oscar Moreno, Carmen Rosales, Leopoldo Salcedo, to mention a few, and my playground was the Sampaguita Studio lot. Some of my playmates were Raul Silos, Ike Lozada and Carina Afable. On some weekends, my mom would leave me at the Vera Perez residence and I would be part of the Vera-Perez clan activities. The big stars like Lolita Rodriguez, Rita Gomez, Gloria Romero, Ric Rodrigo, Luis Gonzales, Van de Leon, Dolphy and the like were my aunts and uncles.

I saw the launch of the careers of Susan Roces, Amalia Fuentes Barbara Perez, Daisy Romualdez, Jean Lopez, Romeo Vasquez, Juancho Gutierrez, Eddie Gutierrez, Jose Mari Gonzales. Life with mom was one big adventure movie with an all-star cast.

My stepfather Captain O'Brien was a pilot for Philippine Airlines. Through him, my mother's movie career flourished. *Tito* Tony served as her manager, when managers were not yet a practice in the industry. Some of the innovative things he did were to arrange the showing of "Dalawang Bandila" in several theaters in Honolulu and bringing Leopoldo Salcedo and mom to do a show before the screening of the movie.

Barangay captain

My mom was widowed when *Tito* Tony died from a stroke. Her third marriage was in 1965 to Brigido "Biding" Sibug, of Pampanga. He was also connected with the airline business and was an entrepreneur. Biding and my mom had many good years together.

The late Mayor Nemesio I. Yabut of Makati persuaded my mom to serve as barangay captain of Bel-air. One of her major accomplishments was the building of Bel-air's covered basketball court and a fully equipped medical and dental clinic to provide free services to the residents.

Mom would always bathe, get dressed and put on makeup even when she was just home. She never walked around the house with rollers in her hair, much less out of the house.

She said that just because you were home did not mean you should look like a frump. She said, what if there was an emergency or you needed to go out at once? It would be terrible if people would see you looking like a mess, she said.

BEAUTY QUEENS. In the '60s, flanked by Susan Roces (left) and Jean Lopez

Court hearing

She said she had to keep up her image for she was, after all, a movie star and her fans expected to see her looking as good as she did on the screen.

When she was called to the witness stand during a hearing on the estate of her second husband, she was asked to state her circumstances, name, address and age. When it got to her age, she stopped and asked the judge, politely, if it was necessary to state her age. She explained that if the public would know her real age, it might diminish her popularity. The judge considered her request and then asked her to just whisper her age to him, and he promised not to tell anyone.

Fainting spells

My mother decided to retire because she suffered from vertigo, which caused her to faint often. She once fainted in the doctor's office. She did not like the idea of fainting in public, "*nakakawala ng* poise," she said, so she limited her going out to only important occasions.

Due to her vertigo, she fell and broke her arm at home. She had to have several operations on her arm, spending a month in the hospital and more months recovering at home. Her illness depressed her no end.

Previous to her arm-breaking fall, her husband was diagnosed with cancer of the liver. He had alternative treatment and lived for three years. But his condition worsened in the year she fell.

A short time after she was released from the hospital following her fall, Biding entered the hospital and passed away after a month.

My mom eventually pulled out of her depression a long time after her husband died. But she became a recluse.

When I entered show business, which was her heart's desire, she designed all the clothes I wore in my shows. She bought the materials, picked the designs and had the clothes made. All I had to do was put them on.

Mom spoiled her first grandchild, my daughter Rina Reyes. She was the stage grandmother who took Rina to her first audition, for the Junior Edition of News Watch on Channel 9, and for "The Sound of Music" produced by the late *Tita* Conching Sunico at the Metropolitan Theater. She was proud and happy that Rina had followed in her footsteps.

Don't judge

We were not overly blessed with wealth, but observing proper etiquette was of utmost importance to her and my grandmother. Mom told me that every-one was created equal in the eyes of God, so I should not look down on people who were lesser in status; I should be pleasant to people, and if I had nothing nice to say, I should keep my mouth shut.

She disliked gossip and said I should not carry tales about others. She had this rule: If I didn't lie, I wouldn't get punished for whatever misdeed I had done—depending, of course, on the gravity of the misdeed.

She taught me not to judge others. She taught me fear of God. She said that if people hurt me, then it was okay to hurt them twice in return. This last was said in jest, particularly when I felt "*api*" when I was young because of my Japanese linage.

Mom was very understanding and she rarely lost her temper, but when she did, she was a virago. Then, gone was the soft voice and the demure manner. But once she had said her piece, the problem was over. She made the best of every situation.

She actually gave me a good life. She shielded me from the shabbiness of life, which left me a little naïve.

Because of her I led a charmed life in terms of my career, and the fact that I am her daughter opened many doors for me.

Great beauty

Today, when you talk to my mom, she retains a childlike quality. She enjoys watching telenovelas, the news, CNN, basketball and the lotto draw.

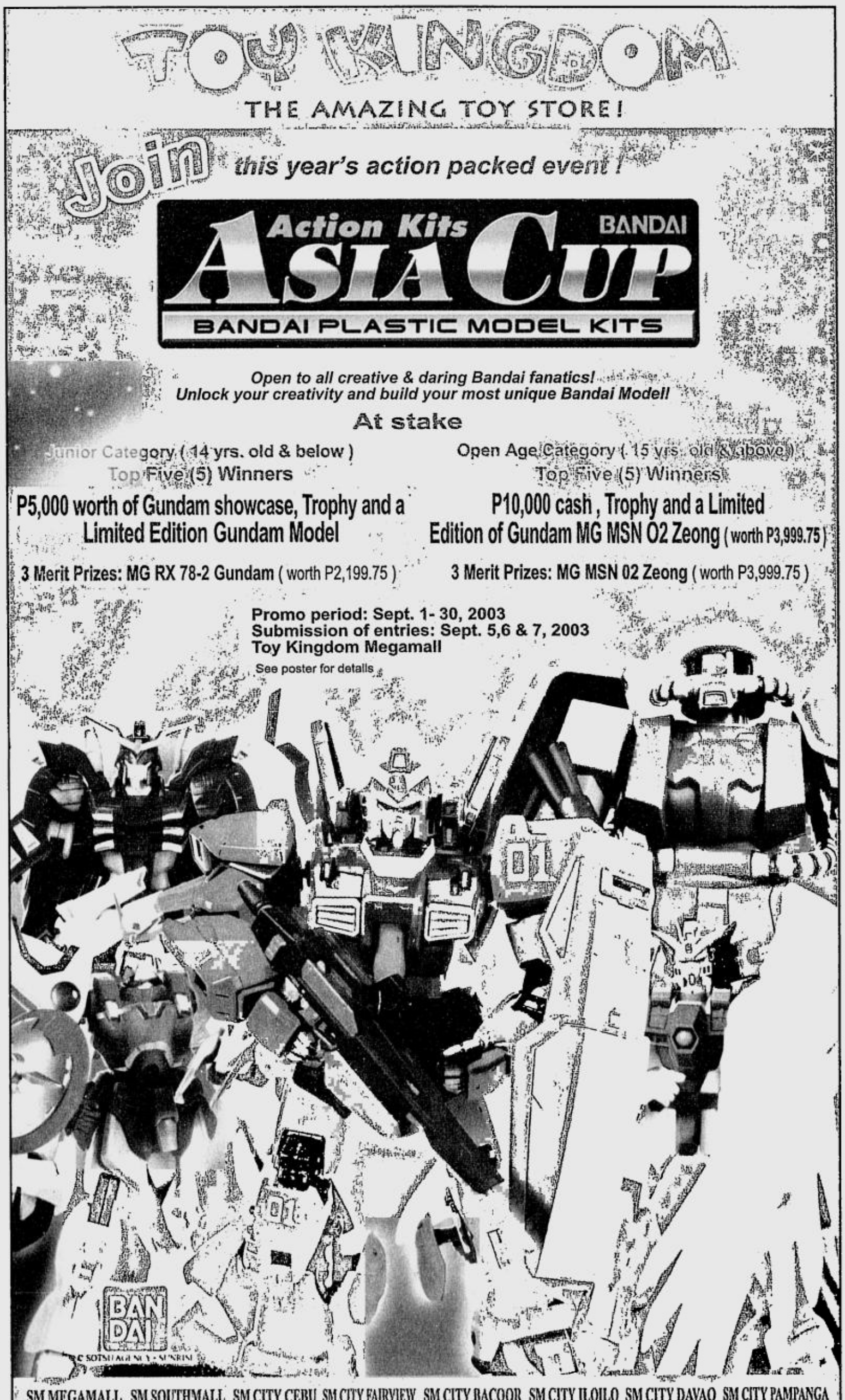
She loves anything chocolate, like chocolate cake, chocolate ice cream, chocolate-covered marshmallow.

She likes to read the newspapers daily. She worries about the light bill, if we locked our doors, brownouts, when the cable goes on the blink, and she claims not to remember certain people, places and things.

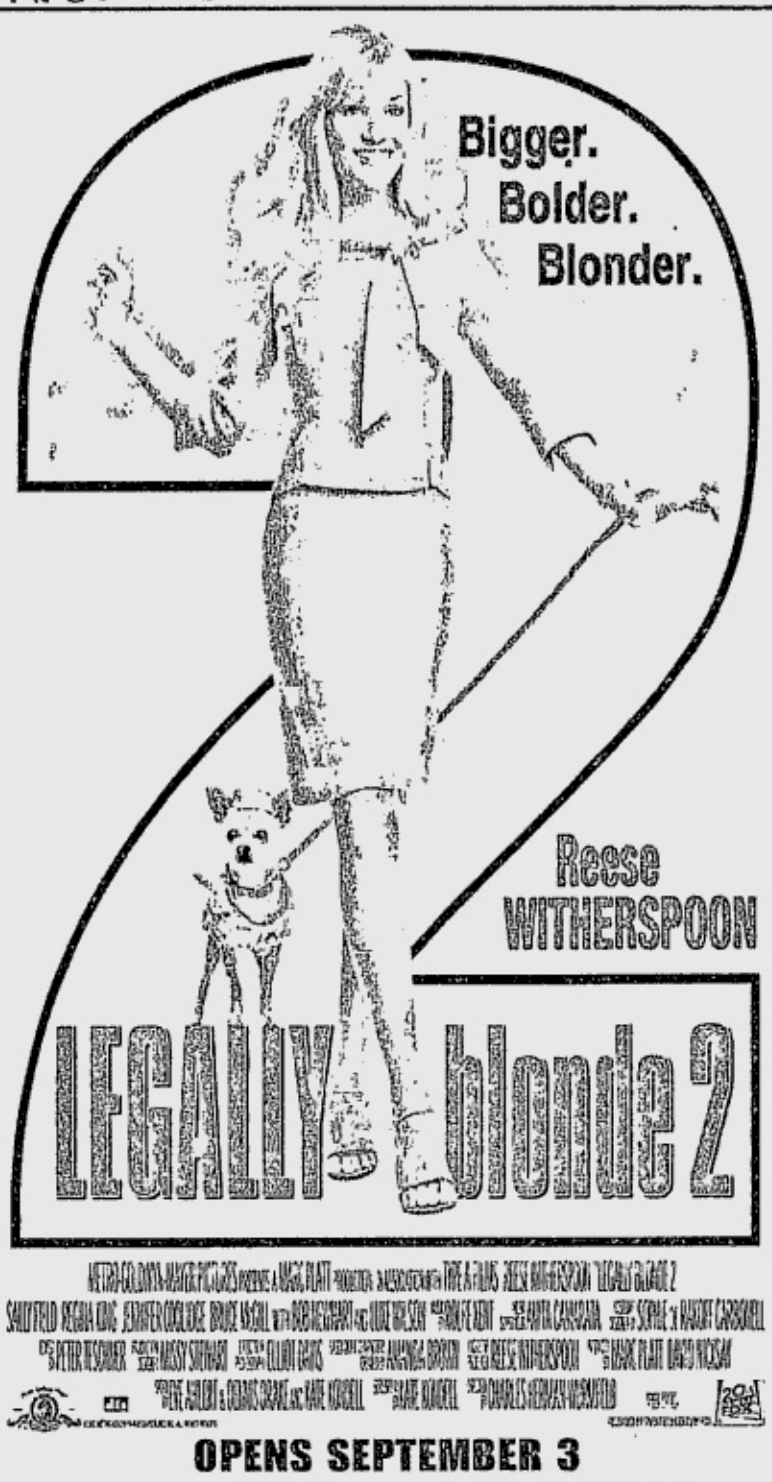
But don't let this fool you. I always say my mother has selective amnesia, and she remembers what she wants to remember. I guess she wants to keep the happy memories. After all, she buried three husbands.

I teased her once that we should go out and look for a new husband for her, and she told me she did not want to bury a fourth. I told her I think she would bury us all, and she said, "Of course not!" with a look of horror on her face.

She remains the same soft-spoken lady that moviegoers saw on the screen. Her features still show the great beauty she was, and still is.



MTRCB RATING G GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ADMITTED.



OPENS SEPTEMBER 3

'Enqueue' at Rockwell

A CHILL-OUT acoustic and folk rock music with singer Jimmy Bondoc, and the bands Narda, Sponge Cola, Imago, Akafellas, and True Faith will rock the Plaza Garden at Rockwell on Saturday, Sept. 6, at 7 p.m.

The show, "Enqueue," is for the Build-a-Lab project for underprivileged college students.

Tickets are available at National Bookstore, Robinsons Malate and Galleria, Tower Records, Music Museum, Greenbelt I Cinema, Glorietta I Cinema and on www.ticketworld.com.ph.

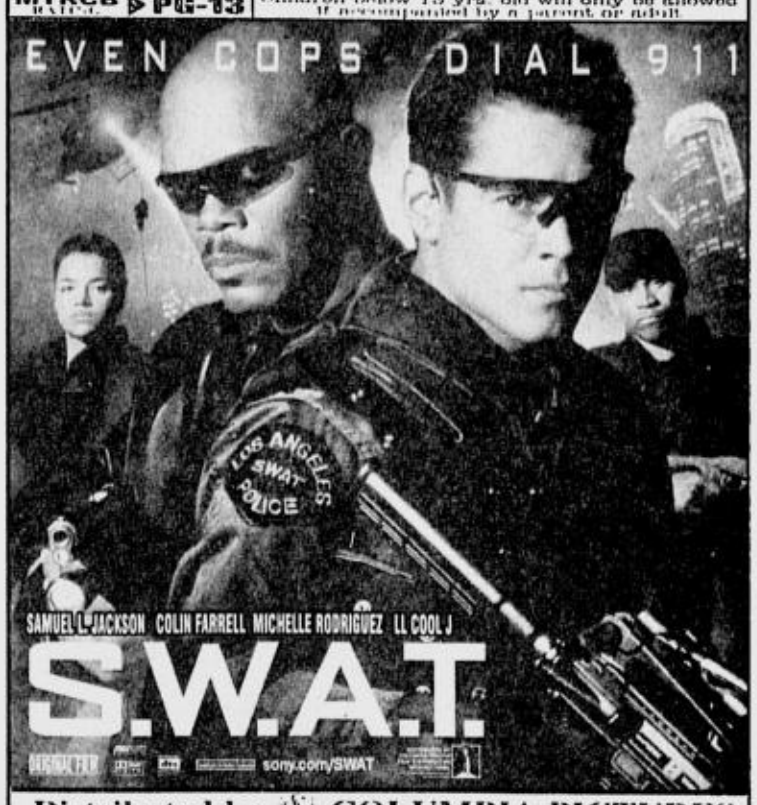
THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	NENA INOCENTE
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	NENA INOCENTE
B	SNAKE LADY
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	NOON AT NGAYON
CINEMA-2	NENA INOCENTE
CINEMA-3	LXG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-6	ALEX & EMMA
CINEMA-7	KEKA
CINEMA-8	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ITALIAN JOB
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SPY KIDS 3D
CINEMA-12	WAKING UP IN RENO
CINEMA-14	FINDING NEMO
CINEMA-15	
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	NOON AT NGAYON
CINEMA-2	IMPOSTOR
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

HUGE NO.1 OPENING IN THE U.S.!
SASABOG SEPT. 3!

MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult



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OPENS TODAY!

AYALA CENTER | AYALA CENTER CEBU | ALABANG TOWN CENTER

Spend an evening of romance and music as Ayala Malls presents jim brickman live

with a special performance by Anna Fegi

Ayala Center Makati
September 11, 7 pm
Glorietta Activity Center

Alabang Town Center
September 13, 6pm
Activity Center

Ayala Center Cebu
September 12, 8 pm
Ayala Food and Entertainment Center

Admission is free!
Special reserved area for Ayala Discount Plus cardholders.
Seating is on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Ayala Malls. Because you deserve more!

ACTION AND ADVENTURE THAT WILL BLOW YOU OUT OF THE WATER!
NOW SHOWING!

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Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

NOW SHOWING!
Exclusively at GREENBELT-3 SM MEGAMALL
SM MANILA ROBINSON GALLERIA

2003 ACADEMY AWARD WINNER FOR BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

Un Film de Almodovar

talk to her

Javier Camara Leonor Watling Dario Grandinetti
Rosario Flores con la participación de Geraldine Chaplin

hable con ella

Guion y Direction : Pedro Almodóvar

Taking a chance

MANY factors have been cited to explain why local movies are doing poorly at the box office, but a particularly significant reason has been overlooked: Producers here tend to play it safe. They go for the "sure" thing, banking on old film formulas that made a mint for them in the past.

Trouble is, the movie times have changed in a big way, and those "surefire" moneymakers no longer click with local moviegoers, who have chosen to patronize Hollywood blockbusters instead.

To lure them back to theaters showing local movies, producers and filmmakers have to offer them something new that's relevant to their lives and interests today.

Trouble is, new formats take more talent and effort to figure out, and many producers don't want to work that hard. So they either stick to their old formulas that no longer work, or stop producing movies as they wait for the current cinematic impasse to resolve itself. Not exactly the way to fame and fortune, is it?

That's why we're appreciative of movie companies that are no longer in denial and aggressively take a chance on new movie material or stars to jolt local viewers out of their industry-induced stupor.

One such studio is Star Cinema, which last year set the local filmmaking world on its ear with "Jologs," an edgy movie about today's youth. This year, the company has had an even bigger success with "Ang Tanging Ina."

In both instances, viewers rewarded the studio's daring by patronizing its innovative offerings in droves. In the process, a trend has been started for the "rediscovery" of unlikely stars like **Ai Ai de las Alas** of "Ang Tanging Ina," and for youth-oriented romps like "Jologs." We hope that other movie studios follow suit.

For instance, they should be on the lookout for new or repackaged stars. Surveying the local talent pool, we think producers should take another look at **Vhong Navarro**, because he's demonstrated his versatility and "*mala*-**Dolphy**" comic appeal in some of his appearances on TV this year.

And there are other "overlooked" talents out there who can be repackaged into "surprise" stars in the coming months. The thing is to create a novel showcase for them, and give them a chance to truly shine.

Master class

CONGRATULATIONS to **Anna Cecilia R Monzon** of the University of the Philippines for having been chosen as the sole film school student from the Asia-Pacific region to attend the 2003 Budapest Summer School (cinematography master class).

The class will be held at the Hungarian Academy of Drama, Film and Television. Kodak is a main sponsor of the Budapest Summer School, so Kodak Entertainment Imaging-Philippines was involved in the selection process.

The master class will be taught by none other than **Vilgos Zgismond**, ASC, and **Laszlo Kovacs**, ASC, famous filmmakers who both studied at the film school in Budapest. Students from some 15 countries will participate.

Kodak has been supporting future filmmakers for many years. The Kodak Student Filmmaker Program was launched to encourage excellence in the field of motion picture education. Kodak provides support in terms of production grants, seminars and publications.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

The Kodak Student Filmmaker Competition is on its fourth annual cinematography tilt. The Kodak Film School Competition recognizes and encourages young cinematographers. Entries to the competition must be entirely produced by a student crew in either 16 mm or 35 mm Kodak color negative film, and under 20 minutes in length.

Prizes include a trip to the Cannes filmfest, where clips of the winners' films are screened at the Kodak Emerging Showcase at the American Pavillion.

In 2002, honorable mention was given to **Herbert Navasca** of the University of the Philippines for his cinematography on "Timbang Lata."

The finalists represented numerous countries and were judged by **Caleb Deschanel**, ASC, who earned Oscar nominations for "The Right Stuff," "The Natural," "Fly Away Home" and "The Patriot."

'Adventure'

THERE'S a new show on Star World that promises to deliver action and adventure to the televiewer who wants his entertainment to go beyond the safe confines of the standard TV drama or sitcom.

Succinctly titled "Adventure Inc.," the new show is telecast every Saturday at 10 p.m. It details the exploits of legendary explorer Judson Cross (**Michael Biehn**) and his crew, Makenzie Previn (**Karen Cliché**) and Gabriel Patterson (**Jesse Nilsson**).

(An aside: Any actress whose family name is Cliché and doesn't get it changed to a screen name less likely to be kidded about must be very confident about her abilities, have a lot on the ball, and love her folks a lot!)

Cross' reputation as "the man who can find anything" has gotten him a lot of clients, who send him out on searches and missions involving heaps of danger and excitement.

Cleverly, this series alludes to puzzles from history just begging to be solved, new mysteries that need to be unraveled, and canny and dangerous villains who have to be brought to justice.

Cross is a charming, streetwise and handsome adventurer. Discoveries including The Lost Dutchman Mine in Africa, Amelia Earhart's plane, and a Nazi art trove in a Bavarian cave have made him internationally celebrated.

His priceless finds have made his clients very wealthy. But for Cross, it's the thrill of the chase that keeps him on the go, not the adulation or money in the bank.

On Aug. 30, in "The Fate of the Liverpool Flyer," Cross and his crew strive to uncover evidence that the historically significant Liverpool Flyer wreck took place at Jackson Cove, Beau Harbor, before the site is turned into a concrete canyon of high rises and multiplexes.

DID YOU KNOW...

Seen dining at Power Plant Mall's Burgoo restaurant two Tuesday nights ago were director **Chito Roño** and his talent, Streetboys dancer **Nico** from "Miss Saigon" and the latter's four-year-old son; model **Tweetie de Leon**; and ABS-CBN publishing president **Ernie Lopez**.

THEATRE MALL
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NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1
PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
P13
CINEMA 2
SPY KIDS 3D
10:50, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
GP
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
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AUG 22,23,29,30, 2003 GARY V HITS MUSIC MUSEUM 9:00PM
SEPT 12 & 13 ROBERT SEÑA "SHOWTIME" 9:00PM

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

WAKING UP IN RENO PG13 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN PG13 1:30,4:10,6:50,9:30	SPY KIDS 3D GP 11:50,1:50,3:50, 5:50,7:50,9:50
ITALIAN JOB R13 1:10,3:25,5:40,7:55,10:10	A VIEW FROM TOP PG13 1:30,3:30,5:30,7:30,9:30	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN PG13 11:40,2:30,5:10,7:50,10:30

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13
STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE

Got the need for speed? Catch the green light and race to the Robinsons Malls for the 2 Fast 2 Furious Mall tour. All lanes are packed with hot cars, cool clothes, free gas, and great prizes that will surely rev you up! It's going to be a furious event, so you better get there - fast!

September 4	5PM Extreme Fashion Show Movieworld Lobby, Robinsons Galleria
September 10	12NN to 6PM Free Gas, Free Movie Pass Fountain Area, Robinsons Metro East
September 12 - 14	Mitsubishi Evolution Car Exhibit Orosa Atrium, Robinsons Place Manila
September 14	2Fast 2 Furious Stick-On Deck Parking, Robinsons Galleria

United International Pictures CINEMAS VIVA MAGIC 89.9
2 ROBINSONS Malls
OPENS SEPTEMBER 10

Enchanted Kingdom

IT'S THE BEST TIME TO STORM THE PARK!

RAIN, RAIN GO AWAY COME AGAIN ANOTHER DAY PROMO

Soak up the fun at Enchanted Kingdom. Get a free return ticket when it suddenly rains in the park! Just listen to the promo announcement and present your entrance ticket at the front gate. We're sure you won't take a raincheck with this offer!

Promo runs from June 28 to August 31 only. Tickets are valid up to 1 month.

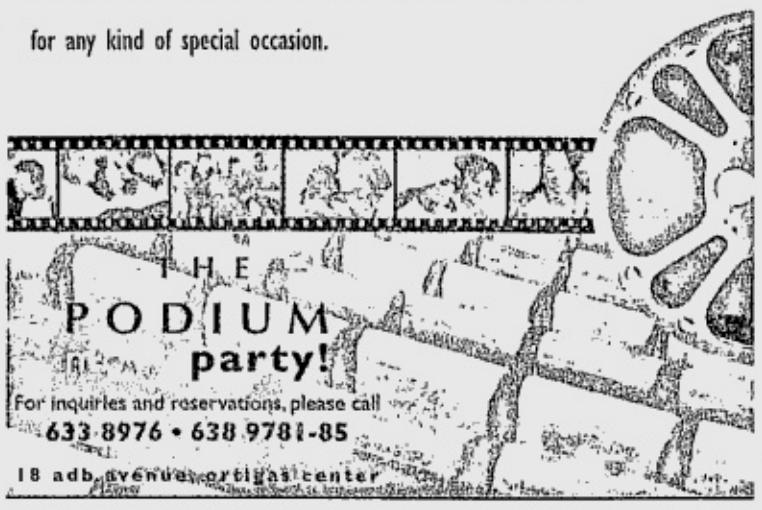
DATE	DAYS	OPERATING HOURS
June 14-August 31	Saturday-Sunday	10AM-10PM
Fireworks display at 9PM		

Per DTI-Laguna Permit No. S-06-152, Series of 2003

Makati Sales Office: G/F. Tropical Palms Condominium, De la Rosa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City • Park Address: Enchanted Kingdom, San Lorenzo South, Sta. Rosa, Laguna • Tel. No.: 830-2111 to 16, 843-6073 to 78 • Tickets also available at all Ticketworld outlets: National Bookstore branches • Tower Records (Makati, Alabang) • Robinson's Department Stores (Galleria, Manila) • www.enchantedkingdom.com.ph

A reel celebration! your very own **private movie theater**

for any kind of special occasion.



GMA launches biggest search

SHOW TIME

IF you have always wanted to be a star in show business, the opportunity has never come this close as GMA Network launches the biggest-ever talent search in the country's entertainment history.

This Sunday, Aug. 31, on "SOP," GMA is introducing a new talent discovery in an event to be highlighted by live coverages from four points: the GMA Studio, SM Southmall, a university campus, and a van roving around the metropolis.

Aspiring stars will have an exciting venue to explore their potentials and prove their worth. This might change your life, so don't miss this unprecedented launch on "SOP" on Sunday at noon on GMA.

You, or someone close to you, may be a star, soon.

'VSR' in Mayor Vi's Lipa City

LIPA City will discover the newest singing sensation in Batangas province in the grand finals of the "Voices, Songs and Rhythms (VSR) II Timpalak Awitan sa Plaza" tomorrow, Aug. 30, at 8 p.m. The event, one of the highlights of Lipa's Foundation Day celebration, will be held at Plaza Independencia.

Vying for cash prizes from major sponsors are 20 finalists, all residents of the province.

Lipa Mayor **Vilma Santos-Recto** said VSR (also her initials) aims to discover and cultivate the musical talents of the people of Batangas.

The VSR II board of judges is composed of **Jose Mari Chan, Aiza Seguerra, Arnel Ignacio, Nino Alejandro**, composers **Babsy Molina** and **Danny Tan**, stage actress **Gigi Posadas**, singer **Moy Ortiz** of the The CompanY, flutist **Jong Cuenco**, and **Snafu Rigor**.

There will be a socio-civic parade, and the "Vanda, Sayawan at Ratsada Shake and Grind" contest will be held in the evening.

For more information, (043) 756-1698.

RAYMOND AND FRIENDS
Raymond Launchengo (middle, front row) could not have been in better company last Aug. 15 when he opened his concert series at the Calesa Bar of Hyatt Regency Manila. Present that night were celebrity chums (clockwise, from left) Jaya, Gigi Posadas, Richard Reynoso, Cecille of Whiplash, Ayen Munji-Laurel, Robert Seña, Nanette Inventor and (not in photo) his sister Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, as well as the singer's socialite patrons and media buddies. Catch him tonight or next Friday, Sept. 5, at the Calesa Bar in "Raymond Lauchengco: The Romantic Lead," directed by Roxanne A. Lapus. Showtime is 9 p.m. For details, call Hyatt at 833-1234 or First name Entertainment and Management Inc., 725-3347 and 725-3379.

Auss'm Outback

IT WILL be an Auss'm Friday night on Aug. 29 at the Outback Restaurant Libis as it presents the "Myx Gig Night" with Parokya ni Edgar and Moonstar 88, which will perform their hits starting at 9 p.m. in a bonzer (that's terrific in Aussie lingo) show.

Also, don't miss the chance to try the restaurant's 18 new dishes, including salads, pasta, grilled items, desserts and specialty drinks.

Outback Restaurant is known for its consistently good food and service and its casual atmosphere suggestive of the Australian outback. Aside from its branch in Libis, Outback has branches at Glorietta IV, Makati City and the Alabang Town Center.

MTRCB G General Patronage SECOND WEEK!

Sea it to believe it!

PHILIPPINE'S BIGGEST BOX OFFICE WEEKEND FOR AN ANIMATED MOVIE

#1 MOVIE OF THE YEAR (U.S.)
ANIMATED MOVIE OF ALL TIME (U.S.)

Now Showing in Cinemas

Walt Disney Pictures Presents PIXAR Animation Studios Film
FINDING NEMO

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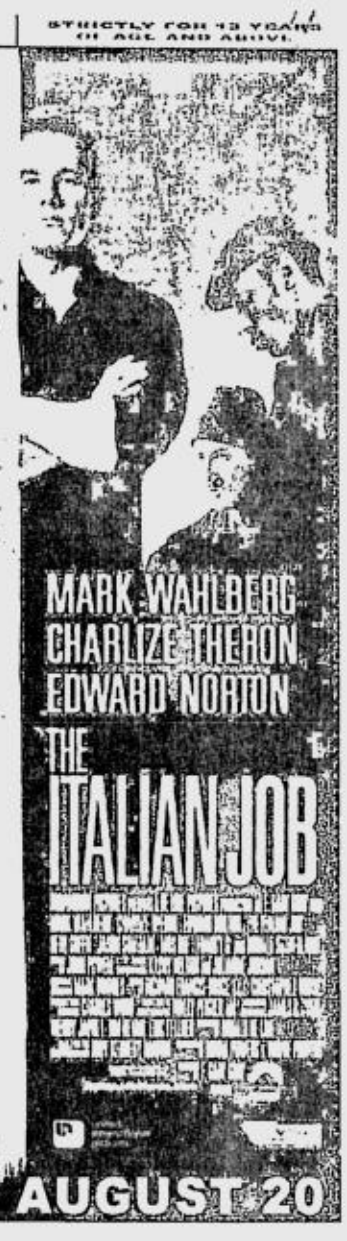
GET IN. GET OUT. GET EVEN.



IN THEATERS AUGUST 20

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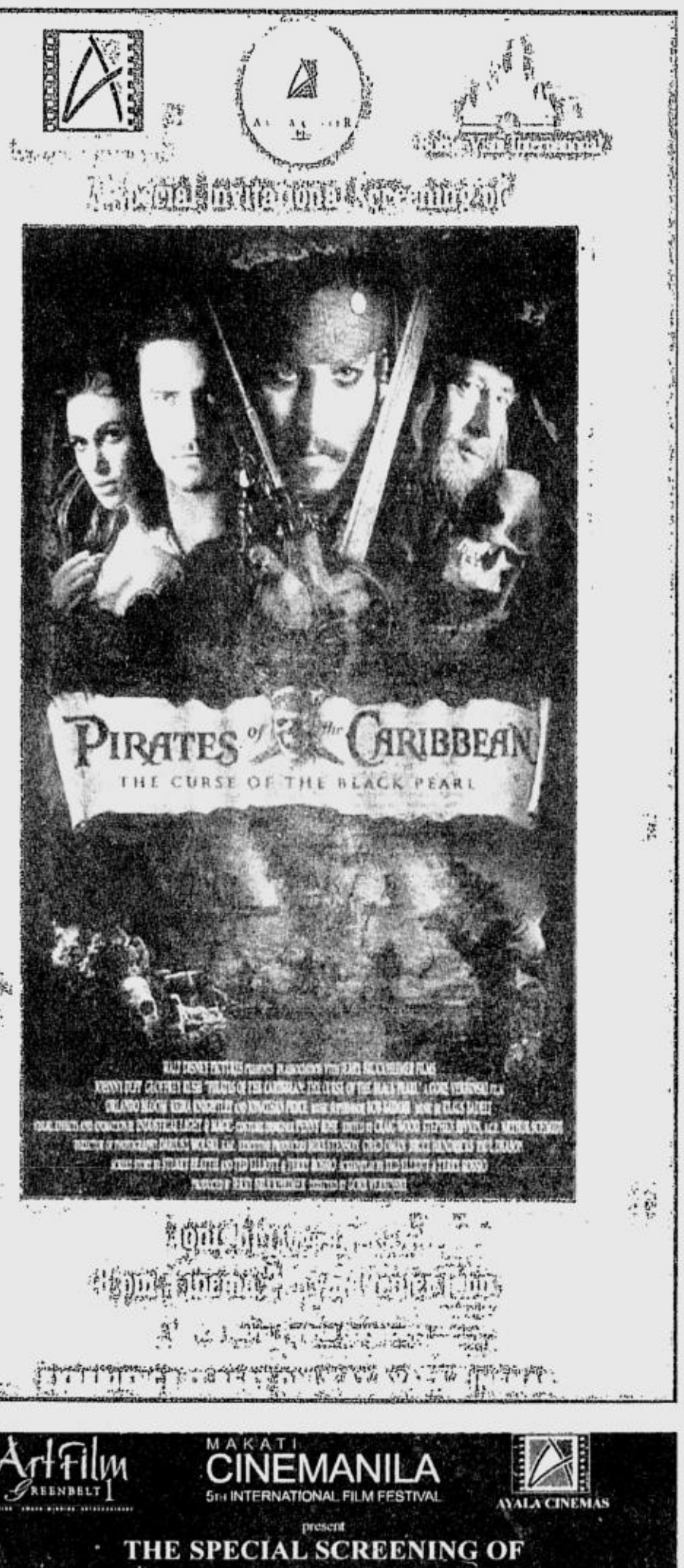

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Per DTI NCR Permit No. A1 478 Series of 2002

Araneta Center

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Ali 7	LXG

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AUG 30	UAAP GAMES: FEU VS. UE
SEPT 1	NCA 7-STAG DERBY
SEPT 3	NCA 7-STAG DERBY
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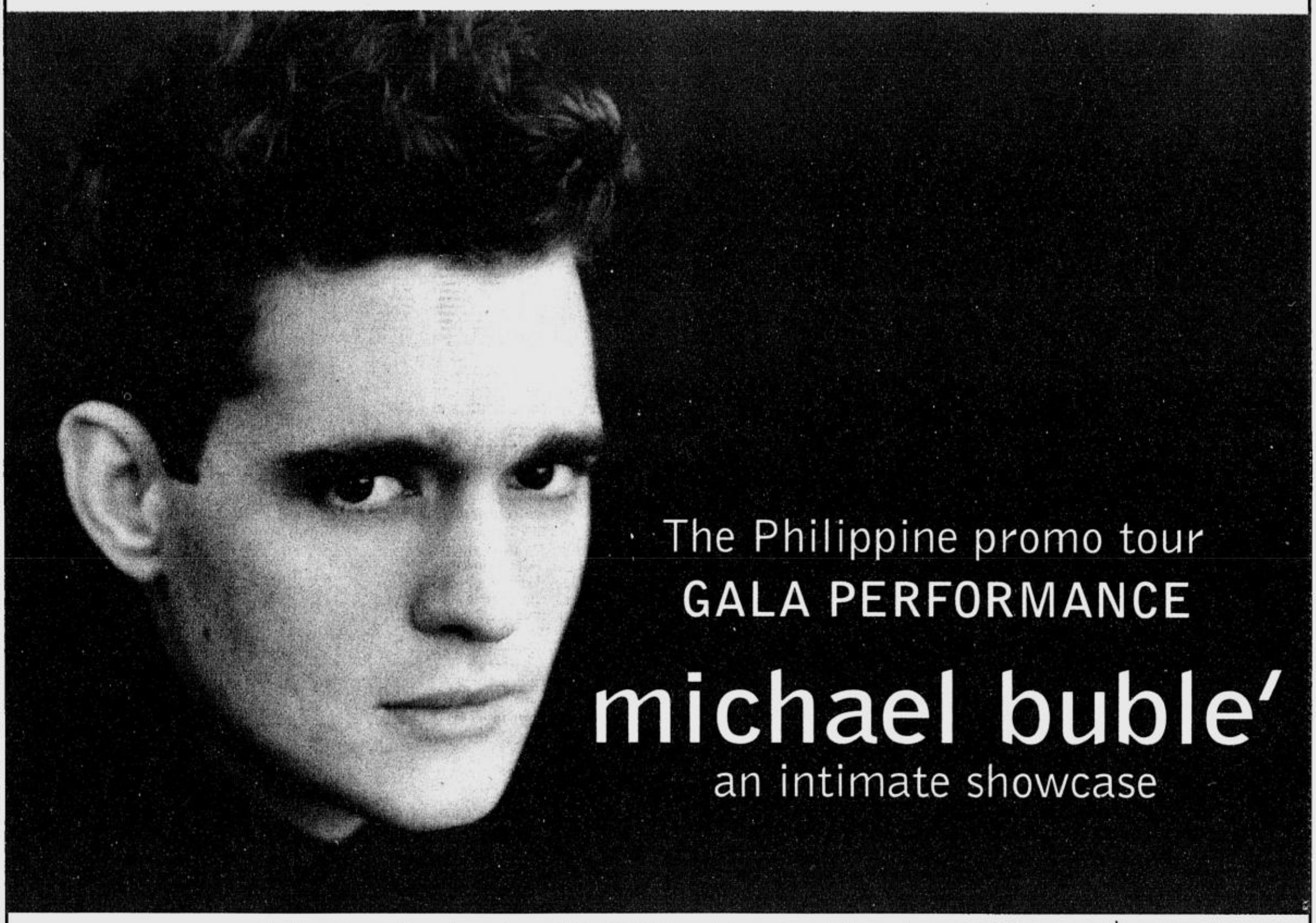

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ENTERTAINMENT

Kris, Korina summoned by House

From page C8

companies and their broadcasters as a result of Sanchez's comments in her show with Aquino.

INQUIRER Entertainment tried to contact Sanchez through Aquino, but the latter said Sanchez was not available to give a statement.

"All I can say is that *baka may bahid nang pulitika* because she's a strong contender for senator in 2004," Aquino said.

Sanchez is said to be No. 8 in the latest Pulse Asia survey on 2004 candidates for senator, and No. 5 in a similar Malacañang survey.

INQUIRER Entertainment obtained a copy of a letter that Aquino's lawyer Raymond Fortun sent to the committee on public information requesting that she be excused from any future hearings.

Fortun said Aquino "merely expressed her personal opinion on what she felt was the less than respectful treatment by" Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen of Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Narciso Abaya during the House hearing on the Oakwood mutiny.

"Ms Aquino has the right to speak out and make a fair comment on the actions of public officials in the performance of their duties for the country," Fortun said in his letter to the committee.

In a letter she sent to ABS-CBN president Gabby Lopez last Aug. 5, Martinez said she intends to pursue legal action against Sanchez for the "unpleasant statements" the broadcaster made "against my person, using the word *'bastos,'* hurling, at the same time, unfounded statements against me."

Martinez also told Lopez that the incident "has been referred" to the committees on public information and on transportation and communication "with the end objective of passing legislation that will clearly establish the culpability of broadcasters and broadcasting companies."

Lopez replied a week later, saying ABS-CBN would also "look into it and take whatever action may be appropriate under the circumstances."

Martinez threatened to file charges against Sanchez in Cebu to "inconvenience" her.

"Whenever she says something bad about other people on TV, she would negotiate to offer an apology," Martinez said. "But the harm has been done. It's not easy to forgive and forget."

Present during the Aug. 20 and 26 hearings were representatives of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, the National Press Club and the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas.

Maloli Manalastas, ABS-CBN vice president for government, corporate affairs and public relations, represented the network during the hearings.

DID YOU KNOW...

Parañaque Mayor **Joey Marquez** watched girlfriend **Kris Aquino** hurdle tough questions during the taping of a special episode of her game show, "Game KNB," with **Korina Sanchez** as guest host. Kris donated her cash prize to the Parañaque Medical Center, while her three staff members were the beneficiaries of the jackpot showcase.

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ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

Rehashing some basic fashion rules and how to achieve a svelte figure

AS I was reading your articles through the Net, I realized that there are so many fashion dos and don'ts that people disregard or maybe tend to overlook because of different fads. Maybe we need to review basic fashion rules. Can you enumerate some of these so I can avoid being a fashion victim? In line with this, why is it important for bags, belts and shoes to complement? How does one go about doing this?

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

I wrote about how to avoid being a fashion victim months ago, but since you and other readers have been sending letters regarding this matter, allow me to reiterate certain simple rules regarding this topic.

First and most important, dress according to your personality. Don't ever don an outfit or an article of clothing simply because it's the latest thing in the fashion market or because waifish supermodel Natalia Vodianova is wearing it in page 135 of Vogue magazine.

Wear it because it reflects who you are, because you like it and feel comfortable and confident in it. If you feel good, you'll definitely look good.

Next, dress according to your body type. Be as realistic and objective as you possibly can when assessing your body type, flaws and assets. Your aim is to dress to improve your proportion, accentuate your best features and disguise your imperfections through your choice of clothes, especially when infusing the latest trends into your wardrobe.

For example, the mod look is back in fashion, but if you have unattractive legs and ankles, it is best to avoid wearing '60s inspired mini skirts. Instead, you can wear your basic jeans or trousers with psychedelic print tops that are also reminiscent of this era.

You should also consider your age. You can still follow trends that suit your personality, but make sure you know how to choose pieces that are age-appropriate. If you are in your early 20s, it's the perfect time to experiment, go wild with colors and be adventurous.

It follows that the older you get, a little more restraint and editing is expected, unless your personality dictates otherwise.

While keeping all these basic rules in mind, remember that fashion should always be fun and effortless. You don't have to follow the above guidelines strictly. In fact, apply them only if they suit your style. After all, fashion is all about expressing yourself and creating your own style statements.

Regarding bags, belts and shoes, it is important for these to match or complement one another so that you create a look that is harmonious or pleasing to the eye. You may be dressed impeccably, but with the wrong choice of accessories, your whole outfit is ruined.

As always, choose your pieces according to your personality and needs. And make sure you match them according to your lifestyle or particular occasion.

For instance, you should not wear a structured, lady-like purse with trendy sneakers and a grosgrain belt to the office. Instead, match your bag with a pretty pair of polished pumps and a thin leather belt. And for weekends, wear your trendy sneakers with a messenger bag or a soft leather satchel.

I know you're not much of a fitness buff, but can you recommend a good Pilates studio/instructor in the Makati area? I'm quite on the heavy side (not obese though, just fashionably plump) and I've tried going to the gym, taking different diet pills and dieting but nothing seems to work for me. I don't want to give up on my fight to stay healthy. Can you help me on this?

On the contrary, I am very much into exercise and eating well. In the past couple of years, I've made it a point to exercise at least three times a week. And just recently, I've made a conscious effort to eat healthy by taking things in moderation and minimizing my sugar and fat intake.

After giving birth to my second child, I had to work double time to lose unwanted weight. So I got into badminton and spinning (indoor cycling classes). Coupled with a healthy diet, I managed to get back into shape.

REHASHING/ D2

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Per DTI-NCR Permit # 2399, series of 2003

Journey of senses launches new scent

BULGARI introduced recently its new female fragrance, "Omnia," in Rome, Italy.

The event featured an imaginary journey of the senses towards uncovering a mystical timeless universe. It was a harmony of diverse cultures, eras and worlds with a mixture of colors, aromas and tastes.

A colossal stage was set up to create a dreamlike and sensual world. Combining the charming surrealism of a futuristic style with the most demanding technical organization, the event chose a most suitable setting in Rome and the Terme di Diocleziano.

The Terme complex, which was built at the end of the third century AD, was partially transformed by Michaelangelo in 1500 into the Church of S. Maria degli Angeli.

An infinite sequence of images and sounds led to a tunnel and the mystery of a labyrinth, where metal and fabric fused in circular and sinuous forms. And like a secret treasure, Omnia was revealed by sandal-clad models in white tunics.

The new scent created by Bulgari combines diverse spices, aromas and tastes. During the launch, this impressive combination was perfectly matched by the menu conceived for the occasion. The most "gourmande" and self-indulgent aspects of the fragrance were highlighted by specially created dishes representing an exotic mix of colors and tastes.

INTERNATIONAL models in white tunics unveil Bulgari's new fragrance called "Omnia" in Rome, Italy.

THIS SPACE RESERVED
for the ad that didn't meet the deadline.

Rehashing some basic . . .

From page D1

You can do it too. "The best thing for you to do is to find an exercise activity that you enjoy and to stick with it for at least six months to see a physical change," says Vikki Aquino, club general manager of Fitness First Alabang.

According to Aquino, activities like kick-boxing can help you trim down. Pilates, on the other hand, is for core training so weight loss is not its original goal.

Aquino also discourages diet pills and dieting. "Diet pills and dieting often set you up for failure because you rely on something else to slim you down. First and foremost, know how slim you want to be and based on your physique, how slim you can get."

In short, there is no shortcut to slimming down. "Good old regular exercise (30-45 minutes, 3-4 times a week) plus good eating habits (eating balanced meals and avoiding anything too sugary, salty and fatty) are the key to achieving the body you want.

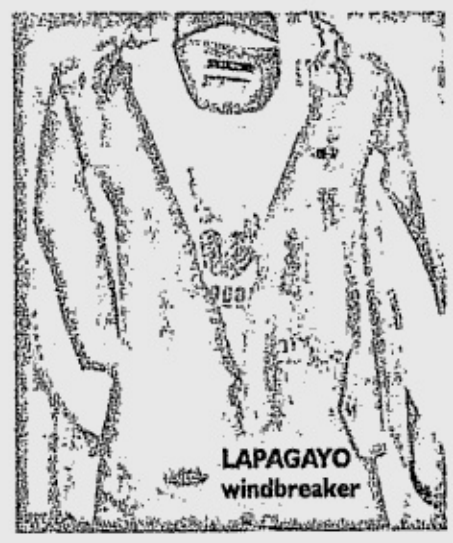
"You have to keep with a program. Going to the gym for 2-3 months hoping to lose some weight then stopping won't cut it. It may seem difficult at first, but a fit and healthy lifestyle can add years to your life and life to your years," she adds.

Here's a directory of fitness centers in Makati that offer a variety of Pilates classes and modified core training sessions: The Spa at RCBC Plaza (8453480), Fitness First (8130736), Gold's Gym (8485444), Balanced Bodies Studio, popularly known as B&B (8151009) or the Integrated Body Arts (8901286) of Ms. Cecilia Sicangco-Ibarolla.

I highly recommend Toby Gatmaytan's Indoor Cycling Exercise, which is challenging, sometimes tough but loads of fun.

For best results, consult an experienced personal trainer so he may create the right program for your needs. Or contact Vikki Aquino at 7710828 for a one-on-one session or consultation. Good luck!

Email the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com.



Drenched in fun colors

DID you know that mixing bright colors in your wardrobe add sparkle to your life, especially during the rainy months?

After a hectic and gloomy week, infusing uplifting colors can make a big difference in making you feel vibrant and look radiant.

Choose red when you need a pick-me-up mood, pink to stimulate fun-loving activities, orange to promote laughter, yellow to build confidence, green to feel comfortable and calm, blue to encourage calm, purple for that cleansing effect and white if you need open-mindedness.

But you don't have to wait for summer to bask in these colors. Lapagayo has them for you with rain jackets in bright hues of blue, green, white, orange and pinks, made of water-repellant materials, nylon taslon and polyfiber fabric that make for great rain gear and windbreakers.

Get these colorful jackets at Lapagayo shops in Rockwell Power Plant, Glorietta 2, SM Manila, SM Megamall, SM Pampanga, SM Southmall and Robinsons Place Manila.

Because the agency received a call for last-minute changes. Minor changes that turned out to be major. Resulting in the need for another set of positives. Positives that required another hour of proofreading, that ultimately led to the delayed release of the material. If you'd rather not go through this harrowing experience nor lose your precious account – as well as your job – we suggest LexMedia's filmless Digital Ad Delivery System. Simply send us your digital file. You may review and revise it in as fast as 20 minutes. More importantly, our total production cost will save you up to 75% of the color separation fees. Plus, if your ad undergoes any pre-press problems, we'll re-run it at our expense. So scrap the outdated use of film. Call Sonny at 811-3383 or (0917) 529-7171.

Lexmedia DIGITAL

Lusting for lipstick

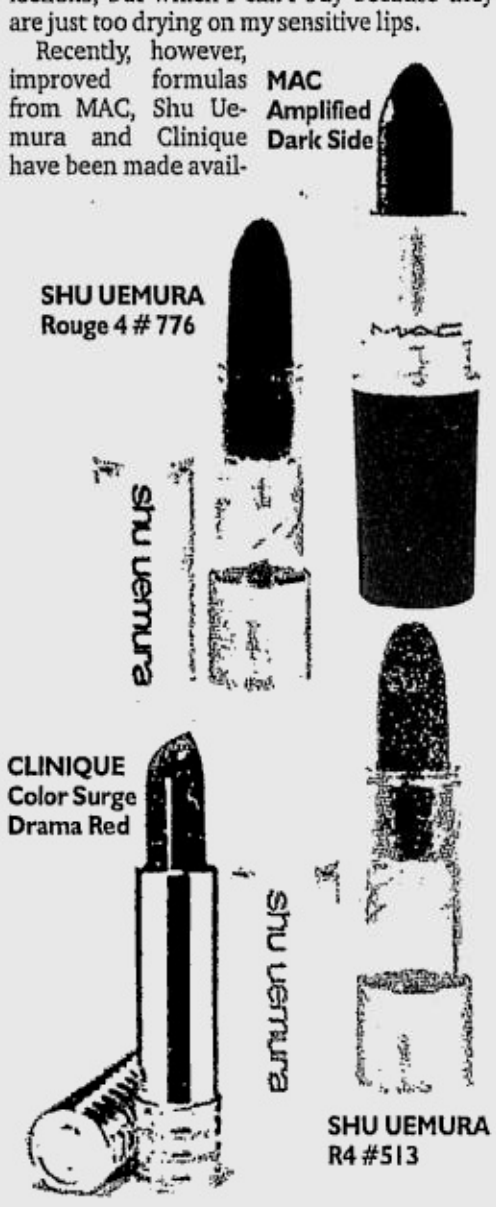
MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

I've been in love with lipstick ever since I was four. One day when I was six years old, an indulgent aunt granted my wish to have my own Deep True Red lipstick. It was a local brand called Joy, and I would wear it after school and reapply it endlessly before dinner and bedtime.

Fast forward 20 or so years later, and I am frustrated by the fact that my dry, chapped lips limit my lipstick selection. There are two brands in particular that have large color selections, but which I can't buy because they are just too drying on my sensitive lips.

Recently, however, improved formulas from MAC, Shu Uemura and Clinique have been made available for people like me who are sick of being lip balm-dependent and have to compromise between drying long-lasters or non-lasting moist formulas.



MAC was the very first brand to come out with several variations of nude mattes. The colors were pretty, but off limits to those with dry lips.

But its Amplified lipsticks (P750) released early this year are something else—rich in pigment, so creamy, long-lasting (stays full up to five hours) and plumps up dry lip ridges.

The new line has 15 colors. My favorites are Half n half—crème pink au lait (Angelina Jolie in the house!), Double shot—full bodied mocha crème, Overload—cinnamon rose, Cosmo—pink cocoa, Craving—plum rose, and Dark Side—a creamy version of Diva, Media and Chanel's Vamp, a devilishly rich burgundy.

Still, what suits me may not be for you. Dark Side, for example, is not for everyone, but I like it because I'm going through a Goth phase.

My mom loved Impassioned—an electric red variant, which I couldn't stand. She also thought my selection was dull. So check out the other colors because it is all a matter of taste and body chemistry.

Shu Uemura also launched its own line recently called Rouge 4 lipsticks (P1,100).

The old formula had always felt like chalk streaked across my mouth. But Rouge 4 feels weightless, effectively moisturizes, has color that renews itself, and gives off a relaxing light floral scent.

Rouge 4 is divided into four color categories: passion—reds, emotion—pinks and mauves, strength—browns and inspiration—peaches and orange. I am partial to the browns, reds and mauves, but was surprised to find I could wear an orange shade 513 (very J. Lo)!

> Three brands have come up with improved formulas that are colorful, long-lasting and stay moist on the lips

My favorite colors among the pack are: 737—bronze, 776—red brown shimmer, 357—baby pink and my Gothic choice, 795 E—black red with copper shimmer.

Try them on yourself too. Shu Uemura's sales motto is that it would rather lose a sale than let a customer walk away with the wrong shade, because the poor service will eventually backfire on the brand. Good principle.

Clinique Color Surge Lipstick, at P680, has the lowest price tag and the cutest packaging among the three brands.

I've never had a problem with Clinique lipsticks, but its latest line has exceeded all my expectations.

The lipstick goes in opaque hues, is moist, slightly glossy and lasts long. There are three standout shades: Pure Posh—nude salmon bronze, Sassy Spice—a golden bronze berry that is a great evening shade, and Nude Splurge—pinky brown with a pearly blue tinge (though this may not be for everyone).

My Goth shade is Drama Red, which is Morticia Addams blood red. Other popular shades include Toasted Rose—brown rose and Vintage Red—the classic pure true red without any blue, purple, brown, pink or orange undertones.

All products are available at Rustan's department store. E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com

ESPRIT'S Henna White (left) and Henna Black (below) feature bangles covered with engraved symbols evoking tribal tattoos.

Trendy timewear inspired by body art

ESPRIT introduces its latest timewear collection inspired by tattooing, the ancient art of skin beautification.

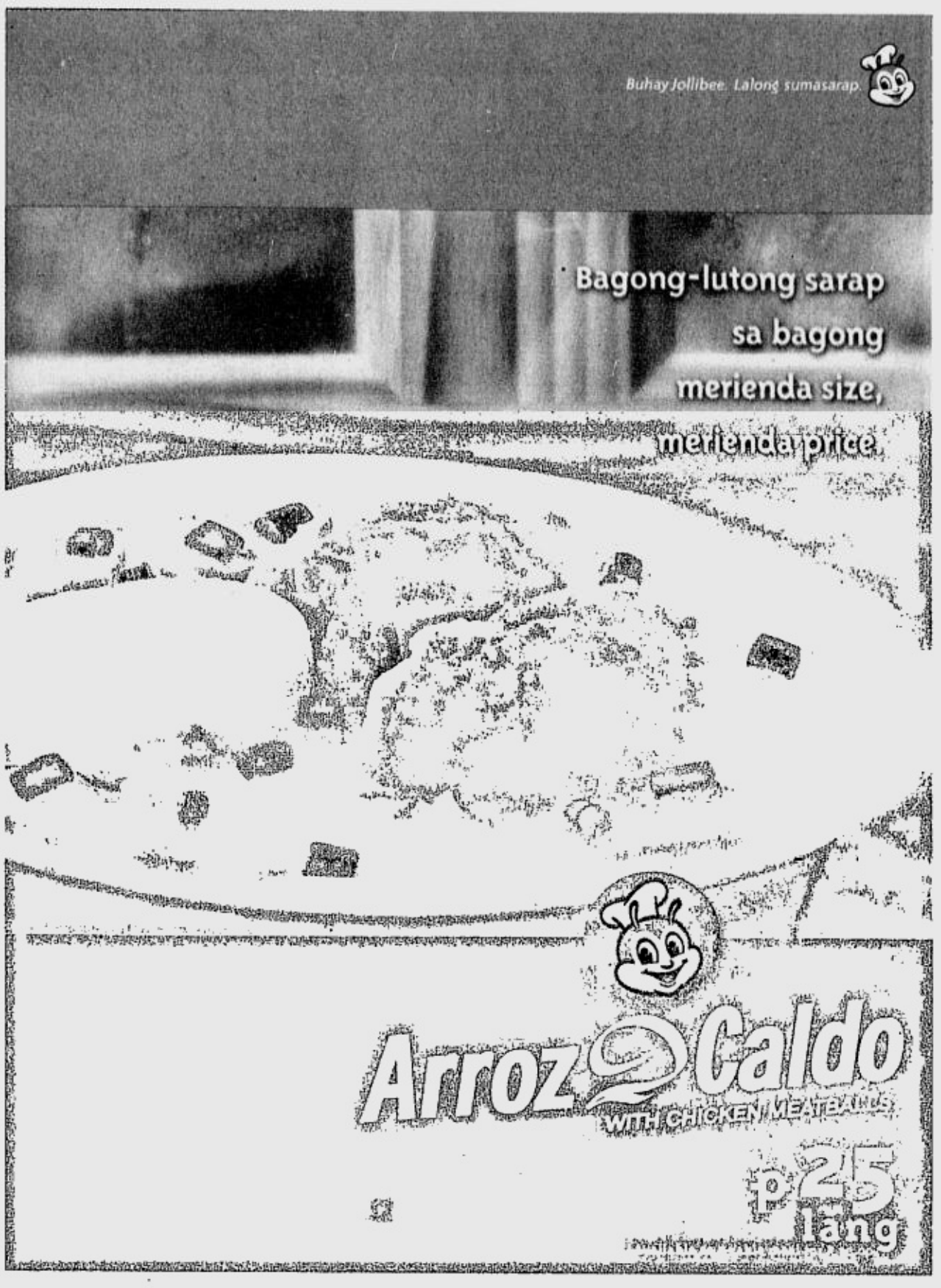
Henna tattooing, also known as Mehndi, is an ancient Indian body art. It is used in creating intricate ethnic or contemporary designs and exotic patterns on various parts of the body, though traditionally applied to the hands and feet of women preparing for special ceremonies like wedding.

Esprit's Henna White and Henna Black Timewear Collection features intricate tribal designs that evoke the ornamental look of the best body art. Esprit describes the pieces as "accessories you can apply to your body."

The Esprit brand, now present in more than 40 countries spanning five continents, offers an extensive range of women's, men's and children's apparel, footwear, accessories, and other licensed products ranging from timewear, eyewear, jewel and fragrance, to bedding and other home products.

In addition, Esprit controls the Red Earth brand name and distributes its cosmetics, skin and body care products primarily in Asia Pacific.

All Esprit Timewear pieces are available at any fine stores and authorized Esprit dealers nationwide.



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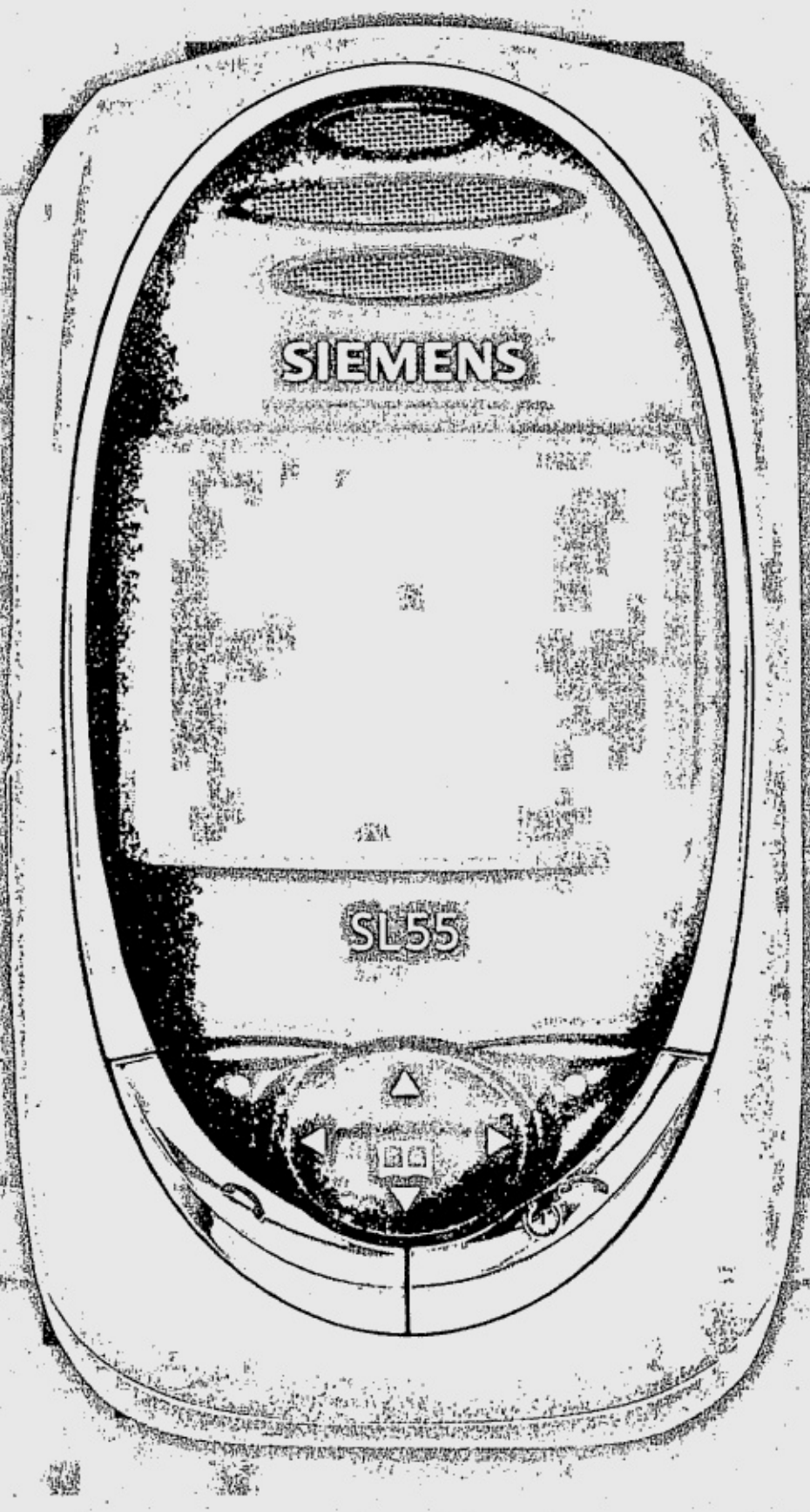
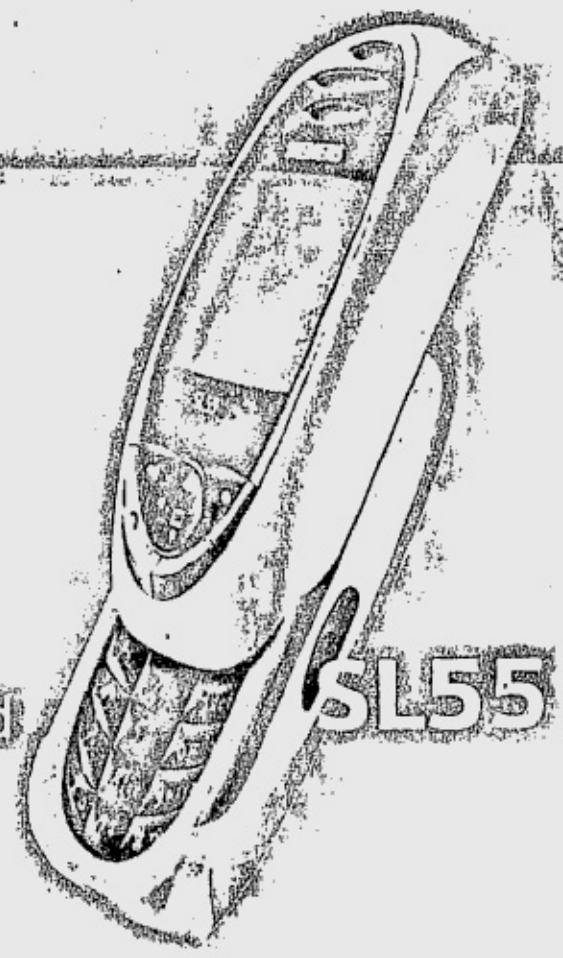


Designed for desire



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

trend edition

ALESSANDRA de Rossi wearing Patrice Ramos-Diaz

Major overhaul

Four of the country's top designers deconstruct and reinvent Bench's latest denim and casual wear collection

BEN Chan and INQUIRER Lifestyle's Tessa Prieto-Valdes KARL SUMBELING

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

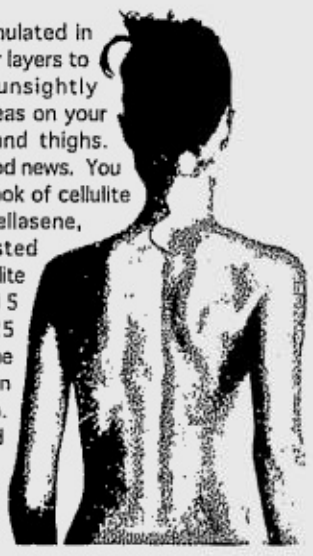
THE LINE between show biz and fashion was again blurred as marketing whiz Ben Chan gave four of the country's top designers free rein to reinvent, deconstruct and, yes, overhaul Bench's latest collection of denim and casual wear.

Dubbed as the Red Series, the recent fashion show at the Glorietta Activity Center doubled as a venue for fans to gawk at their favorite stars as the likes of Wendell Ramos, Alessandra de Rossi, Kristine Hermosa, Shaina Magdayao, Jomari Yllana, Richard Gomez, Lucy Torres walked down the ramp with professional models, genuine achievers and celebrity wannabes.

Ryan Cayabyab and Rep. Teddy Boy Locsin, two Bench endorsers from the fields of music and politics, respectively, later modeled with Diether Ocampo and John Pratts. Writer Gilda Cordero-Fernando was plucked from the audience and prevailed upon by hunks Jon

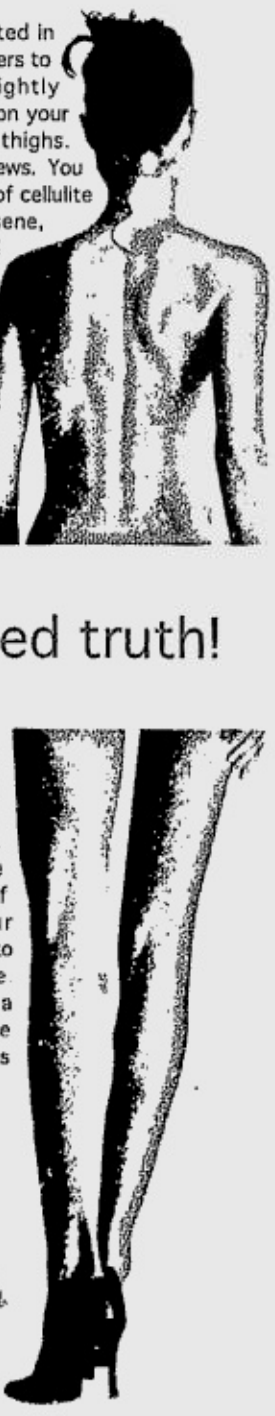
MAJOR/ E2

Cellulite is accumulated in your skin's deeper layers to bulge out in unsightly "orange peel" areas on your buttocks, hips and thighs. But here's the good news. You can control the look of cellulite in 6-8 weeks. Cellasene, the clinically-tested breakthrough cellulite pill has sold 15 million packs in 25 countries and is the top selling brand in Europe and Japan. Developed and made in Europe, Cellasene is a



The naked truth!

potent blend of natural plant extracts that work naturally within your body. Cellasene may improve the appearance of cellulite on your buttocks and thighs to a firmer, ideal shape. With 2-3 capsules a day, see and feel the difference. And that's the naked truth.



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SHAINA Magdayao in Mich Dulce

JOMARI Yllana in Randy Ortiz

DIETHER Ocampo in Jesus Lloren

KRISTINE Hermosa in Patrice Ramos-Diaz

JON Hall in Jesus Lloren

MARC Nelson in Randy Ortiz

Major overhaul

From page E1

Hall and Robby Mananquil to do the ramp a once-around.

Actually, stargazing came a day earlier as commercial model and TV personality Luis "Lucky" Manzano and a smaller number of mannequins modeled Human's latest street wear. Vilma Santos didn't pass up the chance to watch her son strut his stuff on the catwalk.

With the exception of Mich Dulce, the three other designers came up with their respective takes on the romantic look. Patrice Ramos-Diaz either fused or accented Bench apparel such as shirts, jackets and pants with lace, appliqués, fringes and a hint of beadwork.

The designer showed her preference for soft and unstructured silhouettes even on denim-clad male models as they wore willowy tops that were either draped or wrapped around their hard bodies. She even did sleight-of-hand deconstruction by making a male model wear an inverted tank top to achieve a cowl-neck effect.

"The look is still girlie as always," said Ramos-Diaz of her collection.

Known for her sexy yet feminine clothes, the designer naturally found it challenging to do menswear for the first time. "I didn't want to do the usual polo shirts," she explained.

Disappointed

People who expected to see Bench's temperature-raising underwear line came home disappointed. Mall operators reportedly shot down any attempts by the designers to reveal more than what was necessary in a supposed family venue.

Nevertheless, Ramos-Diaz, and later, Randy Ortiz, were able to slip in several revealing pieces by incorporating them with more conventional apparel. The move thus lessened if not blunted the underwear's racy effect.

In the case of Ramos-Diaz, she made De Rossi wear an inverted cardigan and a fringed, see-through skirt over her two-piece black underwear. Ortiz, who derived inspiration perhaps from Igorot men, made two of his male models wear red vests and beige suits (yes, in that order) over red boxers.

Ortiz gave his trademark soft, chiffon numbers a rest and came up with several surprises of his own. The designer's matador-inspired tailored suits in black with red accents made for a strong statement. To soften an otherwise structured look, he accented a number of jackets, shirts and blouses with beadwork, ruffles and Spanish lace.

After drawing inspiration from the 1930s with his Dick Tracy look, Ortiz later shifted to the present by making his male models wear red skullcaps, boxy jackets and denim pants hand-stitched with red thread.

"I had to keep in mind the branding," he said. "I had to remind myself not to veer away totally from the brand. There was at least one Bench item in each piece."

MORE Humans

Disorganized

The designers seemed to have lost track of the actual number of Bench pieces present in their collections, but Dulce readily owned up to using perhaps the most number of items. She stuck to her trademark young, seemingly disorganized look by coming up with draped skirts and reversed or half-finished polo shirts.

"Bench is probably mad at me *na*," said the youngest in the bunch. "I took [from them] perhaps double the number of menswear I needed."

Like Ramos-Diaz, Dulce found it hard to do men's clothes. Since the pieces, she said, were "conceptual," a lot of the items from Bench ended up as components of bigger pieces in the form of patchwork skirts and panels.

But there seemed to be method in the madness, since Dulce was evidently at home with deconstruction. Tank tops, for instance, were either inverted and turned into aprons, or sewed together and attached to main articles of clothing.

Jesus Lloren went "Edwardian" with a collection dripping with lace ruffles, bead work, leggings and rosaries with oversized crucifixes. The trimmings and silhouettes reminded us of two of the 1980s' top pop icons: Madonna and Prince. The presence of faux rosaries as accessories, Lloren said, is his statement against convention and not the Church.

"None of them are real rosaries," he said. "Either they lack several decades or have an extra decade or two."

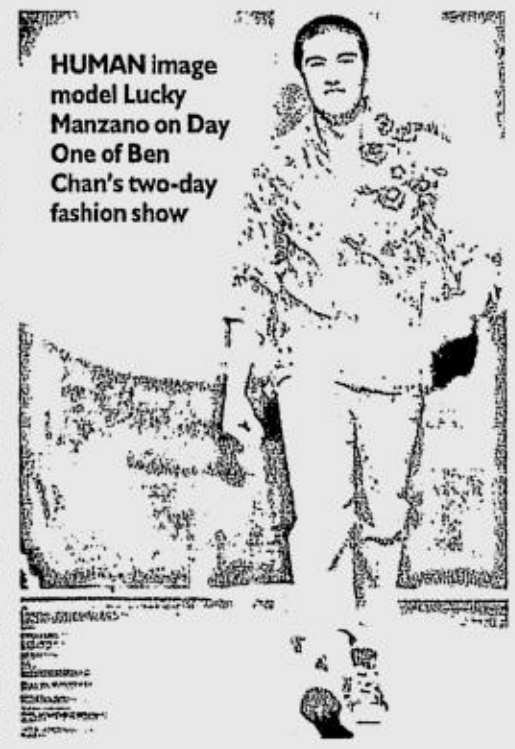
Lloren also featured a number of oversized shirts and trench coats fused together from smaller pieces of denim apparel. He paired, for instance, ordinary denim jackets with leggings draped with various fabrics that eventually cascaded into a bustle.

"It was fun yet challenging to incorporate all the *retaso* (small pieces of fabrics) into one bustle of a dress," he said.

Indeed, none of the designers found the task of deconstructing an already ideal piece of jeans or shirt that go by the name Bench a joke.

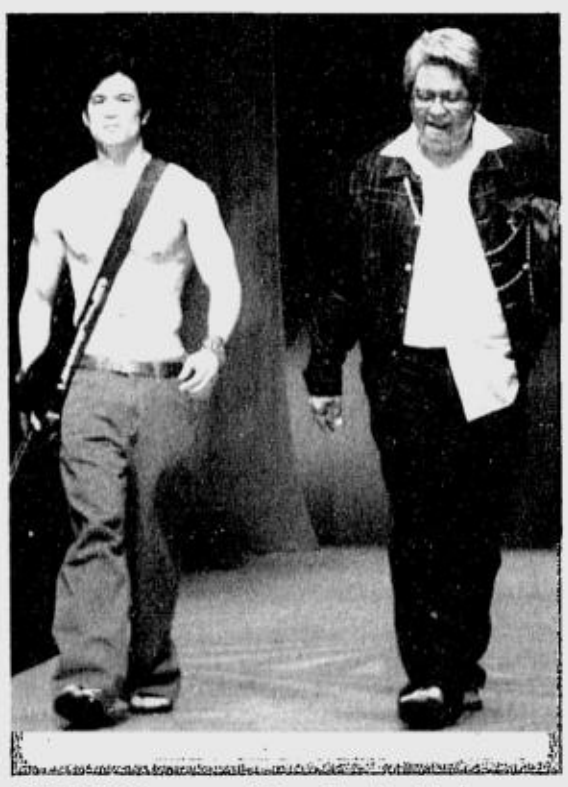
E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

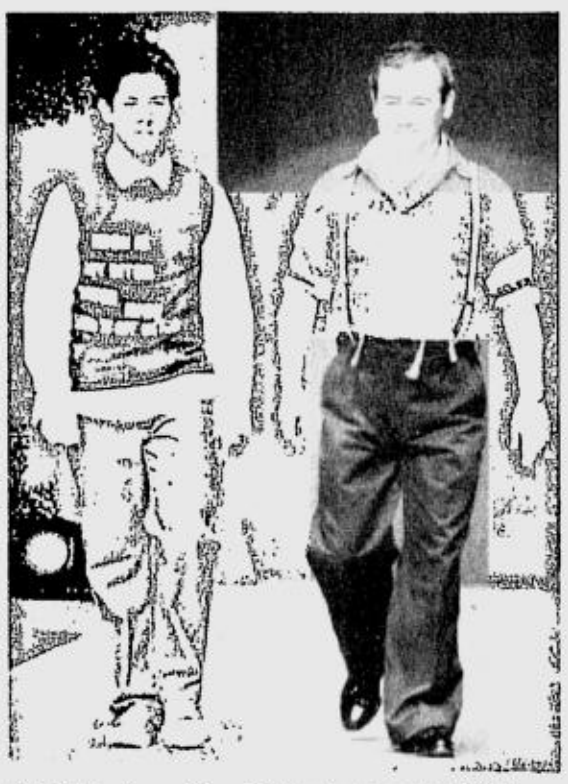
THE GOMEZ family—Richard, Lucy and Juliana—in Randy Ortiz

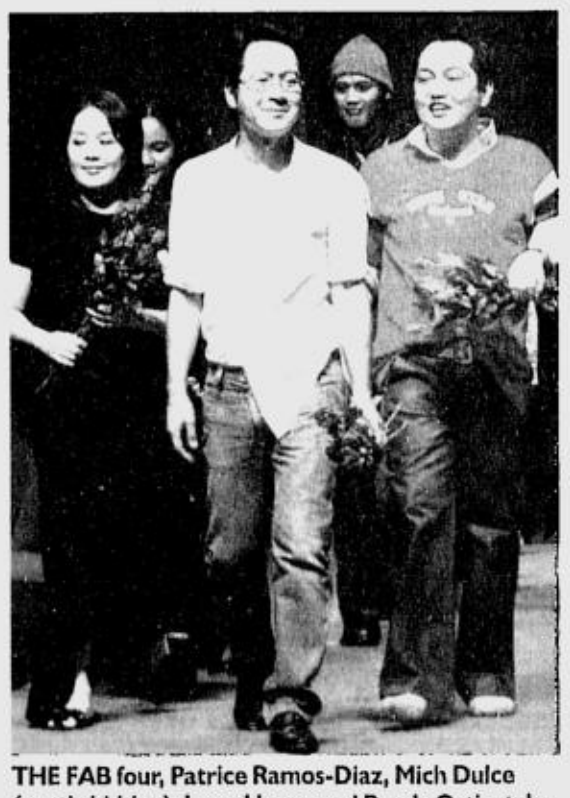

HUMAN image model Lucky Manzano on Day One of Ben Chan's two-day fashion show

VILMA Santos plays doting mom.

MODELS in Jesus Lloren


DIETHER Ocampo and Ryan Cayabyab in Jesus Lloren


JOHN Pratts and Rep. Teddy Boy Locsin in Mich Dulce


THE FAB four, Patrice Ramos-Diaz, Mich Dulce (partly hidden), Jesus Lloren and Randy Ortiz, take a bow.

Quezonians hold annual ball tomorrow

THE QUEZONIANS 1923 Inc. holds its grand 80th Anniversary Dinner Reception and Ball at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel tomorrow.

Incumbent presidents Rholand Z. Roxas and Ma. Divina S. Pedregosa said the annual ball aimed to raise funds for the construction of the Multipurpose Livelihood and Training Center in Sariaya, Quezon. The center will offer vocational courses and training programs for Quezon's youth and unemployed.

The 2003 Quezonian officers are Emil R. Pilar and Carrie A. Bautista (executive vice-presidents), Erlinda P. Diamante (secretary), and Grace S. Alcañeses (treasurer). Youth sector presidents are Arthur Briant G. Abeja and Heili L. Lukang.

Highlights of the ball include the presentation of the association's muse for this year, Grace Margaret Guerra de Luna and escort Domingo A. Reyes IV.

The Rigodon Royale, a stylized version of the Rigodon de Honor, features past presidents and officers of the association. Special guests are Agrarian Reform Sec. Roberto Pagdanganan and wife Susan; Ambassador Roy Señeres and wife Minnie; Lucena Mayor Ramon Talaga and wife Ruby; Ed Escueta and Agnes Devanadera, Quezonian officers Roxas and Pedregosa, Pilar and Bautista; Roger and Glady Cabuñag, Ogie Villamar and Ching Sales, Benny and Ofie Clemente, Nonoy Miravalles and Mitzi Piad, Al and Bing Vizcocho, Nards Virtucio and Flor Santiago, Peping Conti and Rocky Escueta, Dennis and Dulcinea Abcede, Gen. Vertus Gil and wife Lita, Leandro and Mila Garcia, Tayabas Mayor Dondi Silang and Connie Doromal, Ben Farrales and Novette Sto. Domingo, Gen. Nestor Castillo and Lydia Hao, Carlos Jaro and Eding Pilar, Nilo Navarro and Maloy Garcia, Tony Palad and Lyn Motohashi, Cris Aquino and Lody Rivera, Darwin and Marie Igualada, Oscar Peralta and Lala Lim, Benny Brizuela and Fe Villaseñor.

Sen. Franklin Drilon and wife Mila and Sen. Tessie Aquino Oreta will crown the muse. Transportation and Communications Sec. Leandro Mendoza and wife Sol will pin the sash. Mr. and Ms Willy de Luna will give her a bouquet of flowers.

Gov. Willie Enverga will present the award of appreciation and recognition to Mirant Phils. Foundation president Edgardo Bautista.

Search for the oldest refrigerator names winners

TOP three winners of the nationwide hunt for the oldest White-Westinghouse refrigerator were awarded in a simple ceremony held at Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Nine others were given consolation prizes during the event.

Out of the 1,520 entries, 73 percent came from as far as Kalinga Apayao in Luzon and Cotabato in Mindanao, while the top 12 finalists hailed from Metro Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga, Quezon and Cebu.

The grand prize went to Eusebio de Ramos of Lucena City for his 1975 White-Westinghouse (model RVL-90) refrigerator. Second place went to Melvin Ilagan of Caloocan City for his 1975 (RVL-70) entry. Third place went to Edgardo Lorenzo of Cebu City for his 1977 (RVL-46) entry.

Judges included Electrolux product manager Melo Sarinas and Electrolux service manager Dante Sioson.

ELECTROLUX East Asia president Fredrik Ramen poses with contest winners.

During the awarding, Electrolux also announced that its name will join the White-Westinghouse logo on selected major appliance categories, including its newly launched Jewelry Refrigerator Series, namely Stainless Steel, Jasmine White and Metallic Gold.

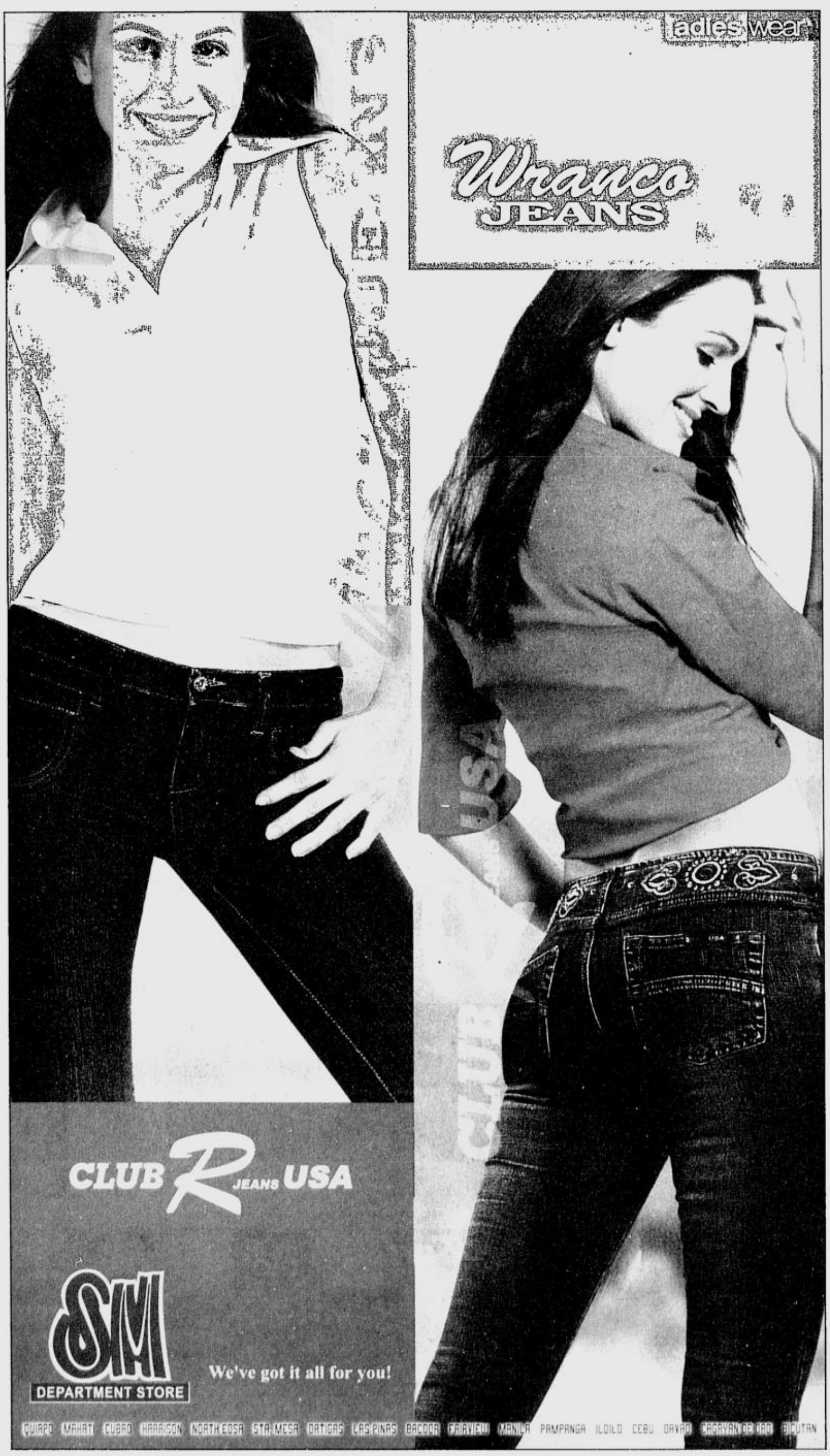
Call 8259908.

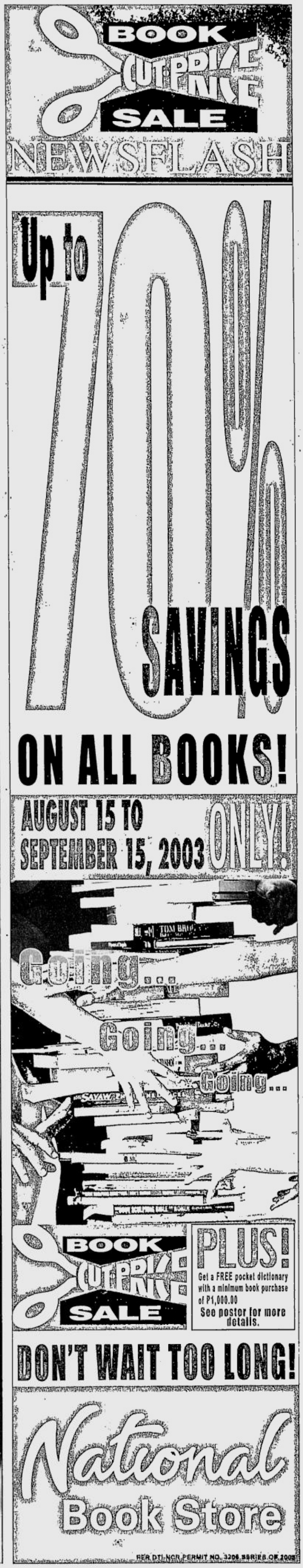
Workshop on enhancing one's creativity

"TAPPING the Creative Universe" is a workshop that will help uncover, identify and set aside the blocks that stand in the way of creativity in everyday life. By actively engaging self-defeating attitudes and instilling practices that will help the participant overcome them, the workshop hopes to awaken the inner joy and natural creative impulse each person possesses.

Through 6 two-hour sessions spread out in two weeks, the workshop will partly employ the techniques found in "The Artist's Way" (by Julia Cameron and Mark Bryan) plus Jim Paredes' practices as a successful, multifaceted artist.

Call 4265375, 9290230 or 4263208.





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Theater Drive cor. Commerce Ave., Alabang Town Center,
Alabang-Zapote Road, Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tels. 850-7687 • 807-2208 • Store Hours: 9:30 am - 8:30 pm

UniMart

Greenhills Shopping Center
Tels. 721-05-92 • 721-06-12 • Store hours: 9:30 am - 8:00 pm

CASH & CARRY SUPERMARKET

Buendia cor South Superhighway
Tels. 844-7386 • 843-7382 • 843-3469
Store hours: 9:30 am - 8:00 pm

19 DAYS OF GREAT SAVINGS!
Prices good from Friday, August 29 thru Tuesday, September 16, 2003!

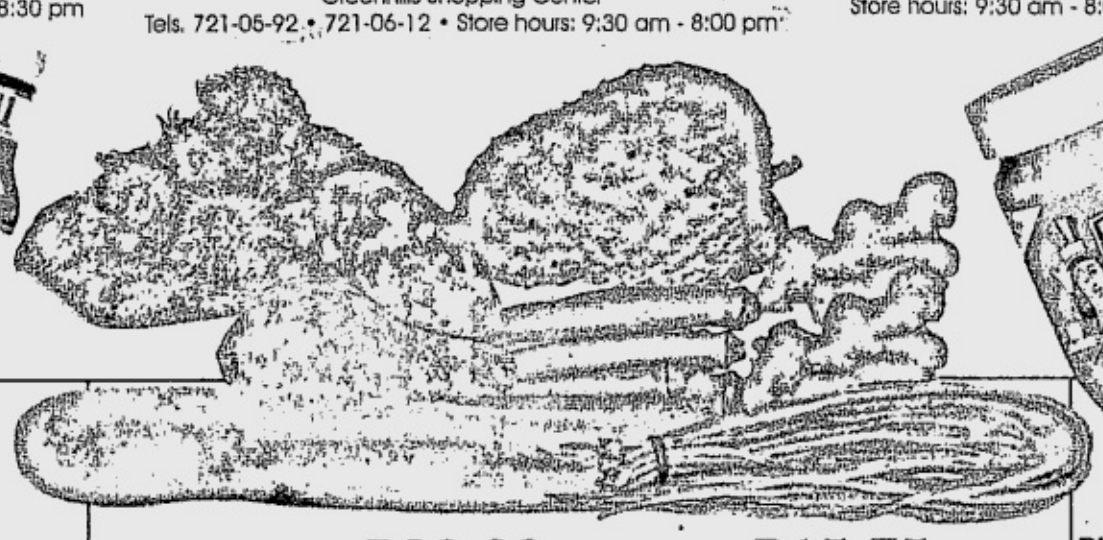
SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					AUG 29	AUG 30
AUG 31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16				

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3610, series of 2003

Best Foods Real Mayonnaise
907g ₱170.50/bot

A-1 Steak Sauce
425g ₱160.50/bot

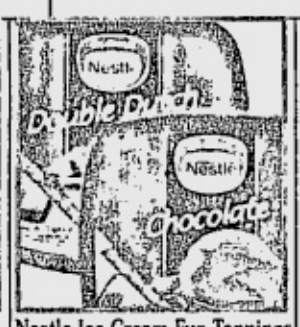


Rambutan ₱39.90/kg • Guyabano ₱15.75/kg
Sitao ₱39.90/kg • Okra ₱18.90/kg • Camote ₱21.00/kg
Upo ₱15.75/pc • Ginger ₱36.75/kg

Planters Peanut Butter
Creamy, Crunchy
340g ₱70.50/bot
510g ₱100.50/bot

Paul Masson
Burgundy
1L ₱325.00/bot
Mistral
Red, White Wine
750ml ₱110.00/bot

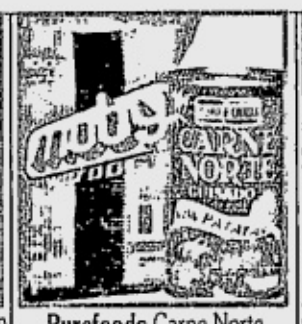
Carnation Coffeemate
Pouch 450g ₱56.50/pouch
Bag In Box 200g ₱28.70/bag
Nescafe Mocha Java, Caramel Mocha 12/15g ₱43.20/box



Nestle Ice Cream Fun Toppings
Classic Choco 1.7L ₱151.70/tub
Supreme Double Dutch
1.7L ₱174.50/tub

Swift Juicy Corned Beef 175g ₱21.90/can **Sunkids** Orange, Apple, Grapes 120ml ₱4.75/pk **Sunkist Slim** Orange, Grapes, Lemonade, Apple, Tutti Frutti 250ml ₱8.80/pk

CDO Chinese Style Luncheon Meat 165g ₱16.50/can
Nutri-Burger Patties
225g ₱30.40/pk



Purefoods Carne Norte Con Patatas 175g ₱17.50/can
Moby Hotdog Regular
1kg ₱115.00/kg

Century Tuna Flakes in Vegetable Oil, Hot & Spicy 180g ₱20.25/can
555 Sardines Tomato Sauce, Tomato Sauce Chili 155g
₱7.30/can

Maya Hotcake Mix Regular
200g ₱15.00/box 500g ₱29.70/box Complete Mix
200g ₱18.60/ 500g ₱35.10/box

Baguio Cooking Oil
Tin/Plastic 2L(1/2gal) ₱78.50/can
Tin 950ml(quart) ₱42.10/can
Pet 1L ₱43.00/jug

Marca Piña Soy Sauce Plastic
2L(1/2gal) ₱39.65/jug
1L ₱21.75/jug
Sukang Puti Plastic
4L(1gal) ₱54.60/jug

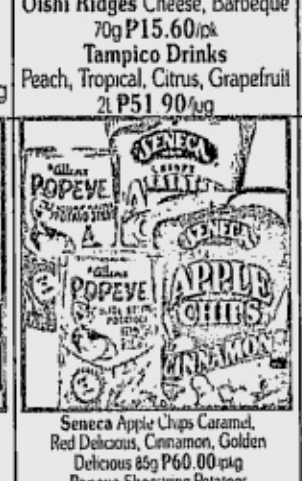
Gatorade (All Flavors) 400ml ₱21.35/bot **Snapple** (All Flavors) 355ml ₱21.80/bot
Coffee House Iced Coffee Cappucino, Irish Cream 240ml ₱15.10/pk

Eight O'Clock Lemonade
250g ₱17.25/pk 500g ₱34.50/pk
Wilkins Distilled Water 6L
₱62.95/jug 4L ₱48.50/jug

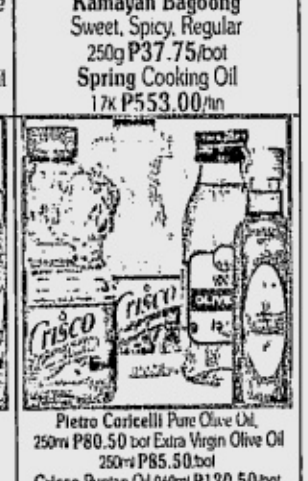
Hershey's
Extra Creamy Kisses w/ Almonds, Milk Choco w/ Toffee & Almond Kisses, Milk Choco Nuggets
120g ₱62.50/pk

Mama Sita's Seasoning Sinigang Mix 18g ₱5.10/pk Bbq. Marinade 144g ₱18.40/pk Caldereta Mix 50g ₱15.40/pk Kare-Kare Mix 57g ₱14.70/pk

Marca Leon
Corn Oil 4L ₱285.00/jug
3L ₱223.00/jug
2L ₱144.00/jug 1L ₱77.00/jug



Oishi Ridges Cheese, Barbeque
70g ₱15.60/pk
Tampico Drinks
Peach, Tropical, Citrus, Grapefruit
2L ₱51.90/jug

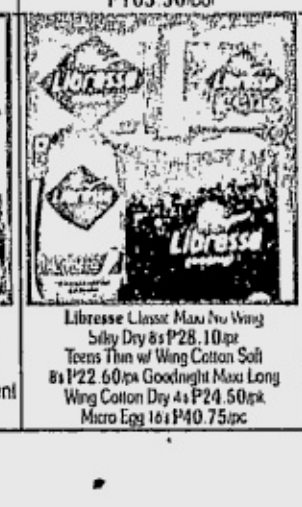


Kamayan Bagoong
Sweet, Spicy, Regular
250g ₱37.75/bot
Spring Cooking Oil
1.7K ₱553.00/tin

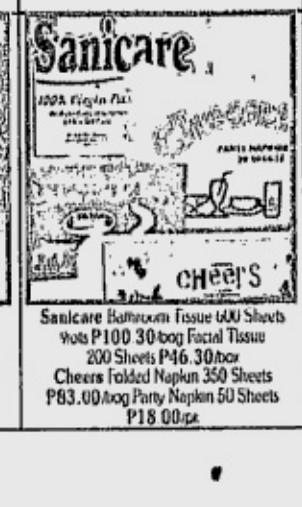
Campbell's Pork & Beans
447g ₱37.50/can
Heinz Baked Beans
415g ₱67.00/can

Eagle Coin Fried Dace
Plain 184g ₱48.50/can
w/ Black Beans 184g ₱45.50/can
Trappey's Hot Pepper in Vinegar
128g ₱56.50/bot

Crumpy Bread Spread Nut, Choco, Duo 225g ₱60.50/bot 400g ₱75.50/bot
Bakerite Cream Bread Large 720g ₱30.15/bot Mega Half Loaf 450g ₱19.35/bot Bread Bar 450g ₱22.30/bot



Sau Tao Instant Japanese Noodles 200g ₱32.00/pkg
Good Life Egg Noodles 200g ₱14.00/pkg Bread Crumbs 230g ₱23.50/pkg



Wei-Chuan Young Corn Spears 150g ₱19.00/can Water Chestnut Whole 227g ₱19.50/can
Seneca Whole Kernel Corn 432g ₱28.50/can Cream Corn Style 425g ₱28.50/can

Nicoli Happy Nick Muesli
500g ₱75.00/bag
Bourbon Choco Chips
165g ₱55.50/box

Seneca Apple Chips Caramel, Red Delicious, Cinnamon, Golden Delicious 85g ₱60.00/pkg
Popeye Shoestring Potatoes 46g ₱20.50/can Ketchup Flavored 48g ₱21.50/can

Pietro Coricelli Pure Olive Oil, 250ml ₱80.50/bot Extra Virgin Olive Oil 250ml ₱85.50/bot
Crisco Puritan Oil 960ml ₱120.50/bot 1.92L ₱184.50/bot Corn Canola Oil 960ml ₱120.50/bot

Mazola Corn Oil 1.92L ₱180.50/bot
4L ₱345.50/jug
Goodlife Oyster Sauce 210ml ₱44.50/bot Sesame Oil 210ml ₱60.50/bot

Campbell's Home Cookin Country Vegetable 527g ₱92.50/can 305g ₱50.50/can Chicken w/ Noodles 305g ₱70.50/can Chicken Rice, Chicken Vegetable, Chicken w/ Noodles, Mushroom w/ Wild Rice 527g ₱110.50/can

Nabisco Chips Ahoy 510g ₱120.50/pkg 340g ₱100.50/pkg Oreo Cookies 454g ₱125.50/pkg 567g ₱150.50/pkg Premium Cracker Saltine 113g ₱50.50/box

Heinz Distilled White Vinegar
480ml ₱43.50/bot
French's Dijon Mustard 215g ₱85.50/bot Squeeze 340g ₱105.50/bot

Lipton Iced Tea Mix
75g ₱155.50/can
Nestea Iced Tea Mix 638g ₱120.50/can 1.28kg ₱175.50/can

Sunkist Pistachios
455g ₱170.00/bag
Planters Dry Roasted Peanut Plain/Unsalted 227g ₱89.00/bot 340g ₱116.25/bot 454g ₱153.50/bot

Ragu Chicken Tonight Cacitore, Sweet & Sour 680g ₱126.25/bot
Jolly Mandarin Segment
425g ₱26.50/can

Jergens Liquid Soap
540ml ₱78.00/bot
Final Net Hair Spry
Scented Extra Hold
360ml ₱111.00/bot

Downy Fabric Conditioner
Ocean Fresh, Cool Cologne
33ml/12's ₱57.60/12's
Tide w/ Bleach Nature Fresh Mega Bar 125g ₱6.15/box 420g ₱20.90/bot

Axion Ultra Liquid
Sachet Lime, Lemon, Spring Blossom, Ocean Breeze 190ml ₱26.40/pk
Palmolive Soap Fresh Citrus Cool, Ocean Cool 70g ₱7.45/pc

Vernel Fabric Softener
Floral Fresh, Spring Blossom, Tender Touch 2L ₱156.95/jug
Persil Heavy Duty Liquid Detergent 2L ₱196.00/jug

Libresse Classic Maxi No Wing Silky Dry 8s ₱28.10/pk Teens Thin w/ Wing Cotton Soft 8s ₱22.60/pk Goodnight Maxi Long Wing Cotton Dry 4s ₱24.50/pk Micro Egg 16s ₱40.75/pc

Sanicare Bathroom Tissue 600 Sheets 4rolls ₱100.30/bag Facial Tissue 200 Sheets ₱46.30/box
Cheers Folded Napkin 350 Sheets ₱83.00/bag Party Napkin 50 Sheets ₱18.00/pk

Surf Powder w/ Bleach Jumbo Tipid Pack 48g ₱3.85/pk Bar w/ Fabric Conditioner 440g ₱16.10/bar Jumbo Cut w/ Fabric Conditioner, w/ Bleach 165g ₱5.85/box

Kitchenmate
Dishwashing Paste Box 400g ₱17.20/box 750g ₱28.10/box
Mop & Glo Liquid Floor Wax 480ml ₱88.00/bot

Kiwi Shoe Polish Paste
Black, Brown
32g ₱40.50/can

LIFESTYLE

trend spotting

The 'kikay' is for real

It's a fashion-forward generation that's not only sizeable but also critical, where brands are concerned

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

THE OTHER night I dreamed that I was beginning to look like "**Rosebud**" (circa **Ping Lacson**, not "Citizen Kane")—you know, bob, wisp of ruler-straight bangs. (Omigod—**Apa**'s comment.) I woke up in the middle of the night. The dream had nothing to do with my subconscious; it was just that as I drifted off to sleep, my remote control was flitting between the US Open and the talk show exposé where **Jarius Bondoc, Mon Tulfo** and Rosebud were character-assassinating Lacson. I was so amused and sucked in by Mon's account of how he discovered that Lacson was "gay" that I totally forgot to flip back to **Pete Sampras** at the US Open. Even prime time entertainment couldn't beat that. (Mon, to sound hip, can't you just please call Ping "metrosexual" instead of gay; that goes well *pa* with the Metro section?)

Rosebud was the last image there at the foot of my bed as I pressed the RC off. But anyway, isn't she such a retro queen, with the pageboy, eyeliner, rosy cheeks, like the '70s sprung back to life?

Today's fashion is still in a most challenging, delicate "in between" position, treading the thin line between dogmatic retro ('60s, '70s, '80s) and '03s camp and hip. If you don't know how to draw your dark eyeliner and dab too much blue eyeshadow, you'd end up looking not retro cool, but simply retro time-warped. Like a "Star Wars" destined not to have a sequel.

In light of this fashion challenge, I can't but be convinced how fashion-forward today's young Filipinas are. The Filipina has always been feminine, vain and meticulous about her looks (it's not for nothing that many eligible expats end up not leaving our shores, but that fairy tale is for another day), but today, they're not only that. The young aren't only fashion-conscious, they're also fashion-literate and fashion-forward. They're not only on the crest of the trend, they can even be ahead of it. And they know how to push it to the cutting edge.

When I say young, I mean 12, 13 to 16ers. I'm not even talking anymore of working girls, debutantes or pre-debs. I'm talking pre-teeners here.

I have on my desk questionnaires answered by 12-, 13- and 14-year-olds on style and fashion issues, and I'm simply amazed at the answers. At their age, they know cosmetics, skin care, fashion. They know brands. Indeed, they know what they want.

Ask them what they have in their bags, apart from cell phone, and chances are you'll get a loot that should surprise my generation of mothers (in my day, it was parka jackets to bring to rallies, ok?). They have lip balm, oil blotters, pressed powder, cologne, lip/cheek gloss, and a few would have mascara, eyeliner. One 14-year-old said she had concealer! (To conceal what!?)

These girls are even conscious of eyebags. (If they have "eyebags," then what do mommies like me have, cargo vans?)

Three years ago, as we paved the way for the creation of a magazine precisely for preteens, I named the exercise "Operation Kikay." I just thought of "kikay" from out of the blue, often used by us girl friends when in a glamming-it-up mood—as differentiated from "Doña Okaray" which is what Auggie Cordero uses on me when, in a bad mood, he feels like lumping me up with the matrons—whom he can't fit in his clothes.

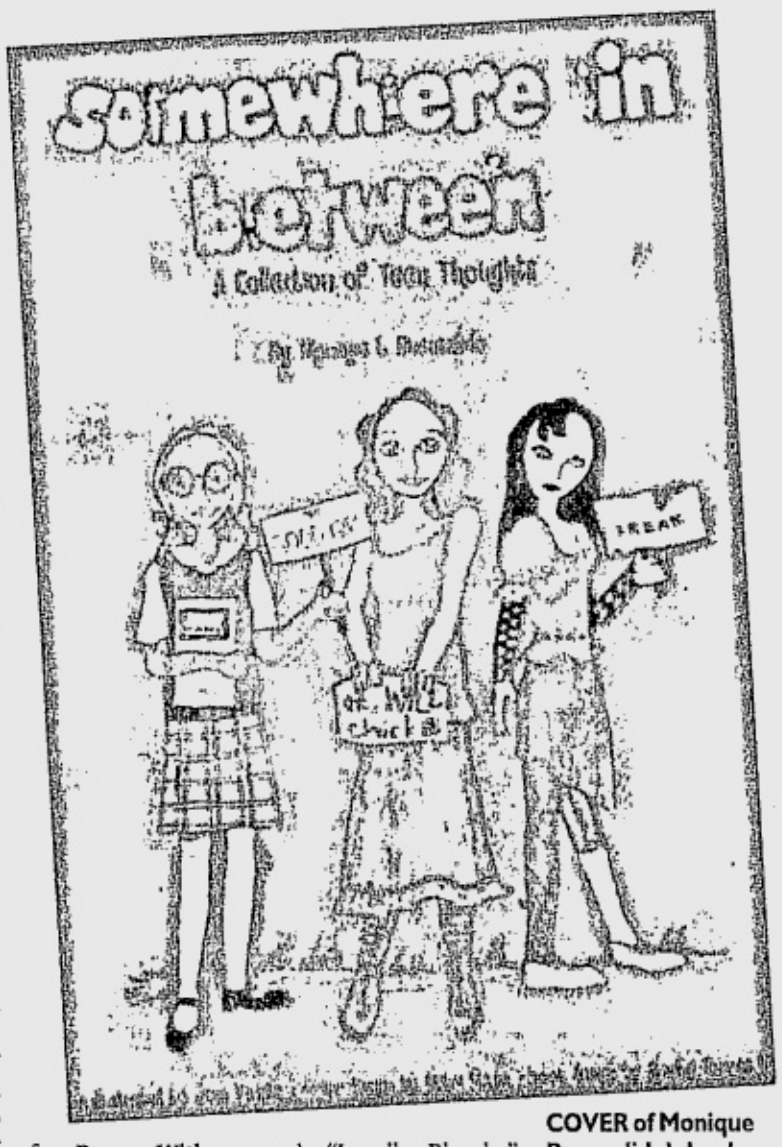
In time "kikay," of course, became an oft-used psychographics term to denote the fashionistas and stylistas of the preteens and teens.

And you'd better believe it. The "kikay" is not only a sizeable segment of today's Philippine population, it's also a high-profile critical mass which no brand can ignore. The "kikay" is for real, and is right now in your living room, using up her Nokia even as she goes berserk over her zits.

Almost every mommy has a "kikay" to bring to the "derma," to the hair and foot spa, to facial or to Ricky Reyes for rebonding or reborn. These are real-must destinations which weren't even around when mommy was in her "kikay" age. In my time, the "derma" was strictly prick-and-peel.

We're not even talking clothes here. In the questionnaire's answers, I can see these lovable girls even know when to use animal prints, and not to.

These girls are growing up long after **Alicia Silverstone**'s "Clueless," but are right in time



for **Reese Witherspoon**'s "Legally Blonde." Chick flicks influence them, and so do rock icons.

A daughter is one thing in the world I don't have. I have sons instead, but believe me, they can be vain enough to hook me up to what a "kikay" is all about.

The "kikay" syndrome, by the way, is not limited to girls. Girls and guys these days are into looking good, on to becoming babes and dudes. Guys my sons' age use facial cleansers, moisturizers, lip balm, of course, hair gel or mousse. In short, they raid my stuff.

The "kikay" generation doesn't have to be reminded to take care of oneself.

It knows how to. Reared in the era of celebritydom, it has the media savvy to know the value of imaging.

That's on one hand. On the other, the challenge is how to put a balance to the "kikay" generation's self-absorption. No wonder when I told her we were producing a "kikay" style magazine, our good friend **Conchita Razon** (known to you as **Martin Nievera**'s mom), who's not only a grandma but who also has a sharp eye and even sharper wit when it comes to society values, pleaded with us, "Oh no. Don't add to it."

Of course, we had to. Now we're hooked up with the "kikay" generation more than ever, finding more and more about it.

I must say I consider it a privilege, given this vantage view. I also see how creative they can be. I know every generation is creative, but this generation sets off this creativity with a sense of independence and adventure the degree of which we haven't seen in previous generations.

They're not only vocal and assertive, they can also be fearless and definitive about their opinion, if not opinionated.

THE 'KIKAY'/ F4

COVER of Monique Buensalido's book; below is an illustrated page in her book

Real People. True Stories.

"My job and family keep me 'young on the inside' – on the outside, it's definitely Imedeen! It's not just for your face -- over-all conditioning talaga!"

Zina Rosales,
events planner, mother of two teenagers,
'proud to be vain'

How can you best enjoy a life packed with blessings? For Zina Rosales, it's by staying vibrant and young in spirit – with skin to match. That's where Imedeen comes in. "Imedeen enhances my skin all over, not just on my face... I started to see aging signs on my neck, but with Imedeen it's now supple and even-toned." Unlike creams and lotions, Imedeen works from inside to help strengthen the inner layers of the skin where aging starts. That's why Zina, a self-described 'beauty cynic', looks young and feels confident. As she puts it, "No one notices the age difference when I'm with my young friends!" Imedeen. The Skin Care Tablet.

Ultrasound images of the skin structure: First photo shows photodamaged dermis, second photo shows denser structure which implies better support and ability to hold moisture.

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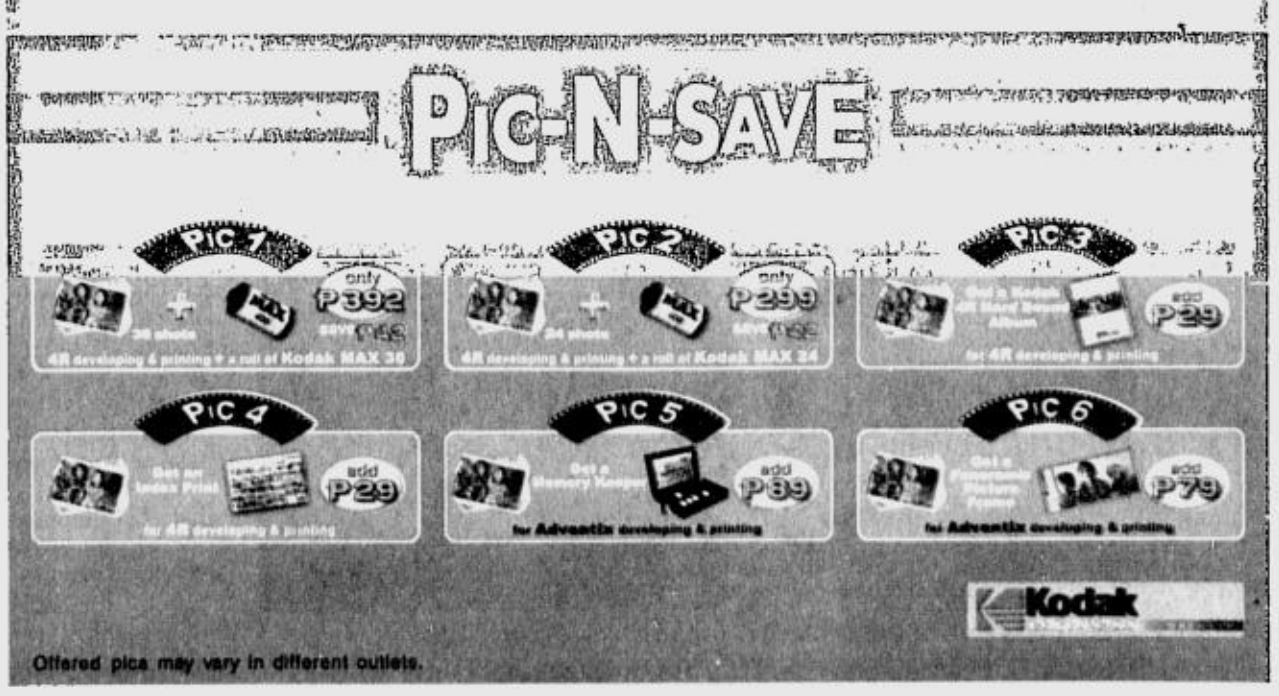

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AUGUST 29 FRIDAY

Reyes: Publicity stunt or sacrifice?

By Michael Lim Ubac
and Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACAÑANG yesterday denied that resigned Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes was forced to step down at the urging of Palace "media handlers" to protect President Macapagal-Arroyo from the negative fall-out from the July 27 failed coup and the charges leveled against the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao said what Reyes did was a "magnanimous sacrifice" for the Armed Forces and the country.

He explained that Reyes, after talking with the President, had decided to resign as "he felt this would help clear the poisonous air of black propaganda and help accelerate programs to enhance the [Armed Forces'] efficiency and integrity which he himself has been pushing" since becoming defense secretary.

"It's unfair for (Inq7 reporter Fe) Zamora, again using anonymous sources, to try to deny Angie his magnanimous sacrifice for the sake of the AFP and the republic," Tiglao said.

But two administration senators yesterday claimed that Reyes' resignation was a well-scripted publicity stunt aimed at boosting the popularity of the President.

The senators, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Reyes was asked to resign to protect the President from any further attacks from politicians and from disgruntled' military officers.

One of the senators said the plan was for Reyes to step down to "cool off for a while."

"Then he will be given a lateral movement," said one senator. One of the Cabinet posts being considered for him was the public works portfolio, the source said.

He described Reyes' ouster as "the longest wait."

"He should have stepped down a long time ago. But his resignation is really a non-issue," the senator added.

The second senator, a staunch ally of the President, said Reyes' resignation was a "temporary" solution to ease political tensions.

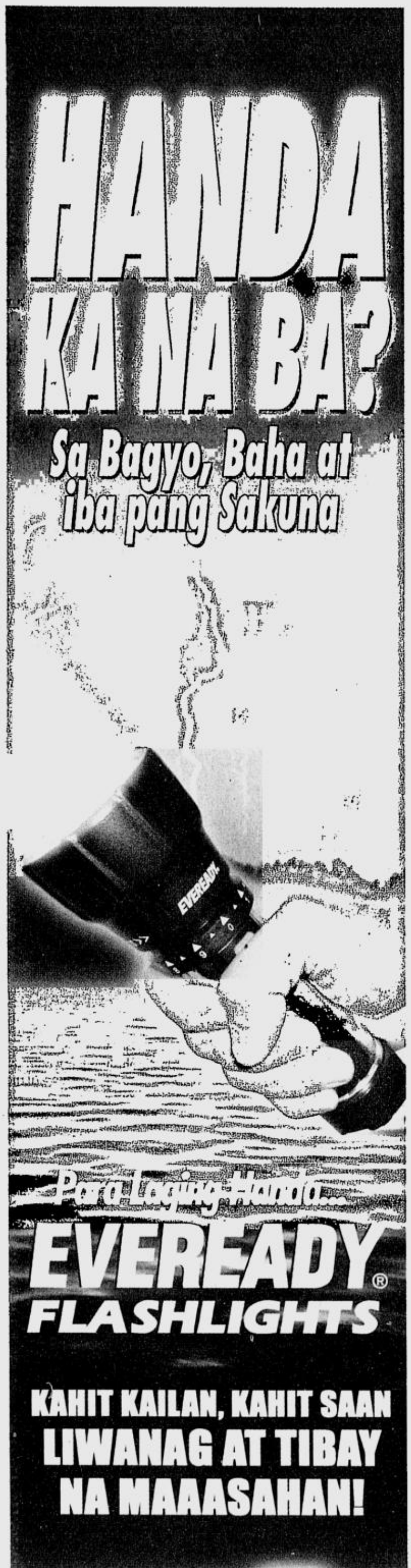
"He will be given another department. That's for sure," said the senator who stressed that the President would not be willing to let go of Reyes because of the crucial role he played in the second Edsa people power uprising.

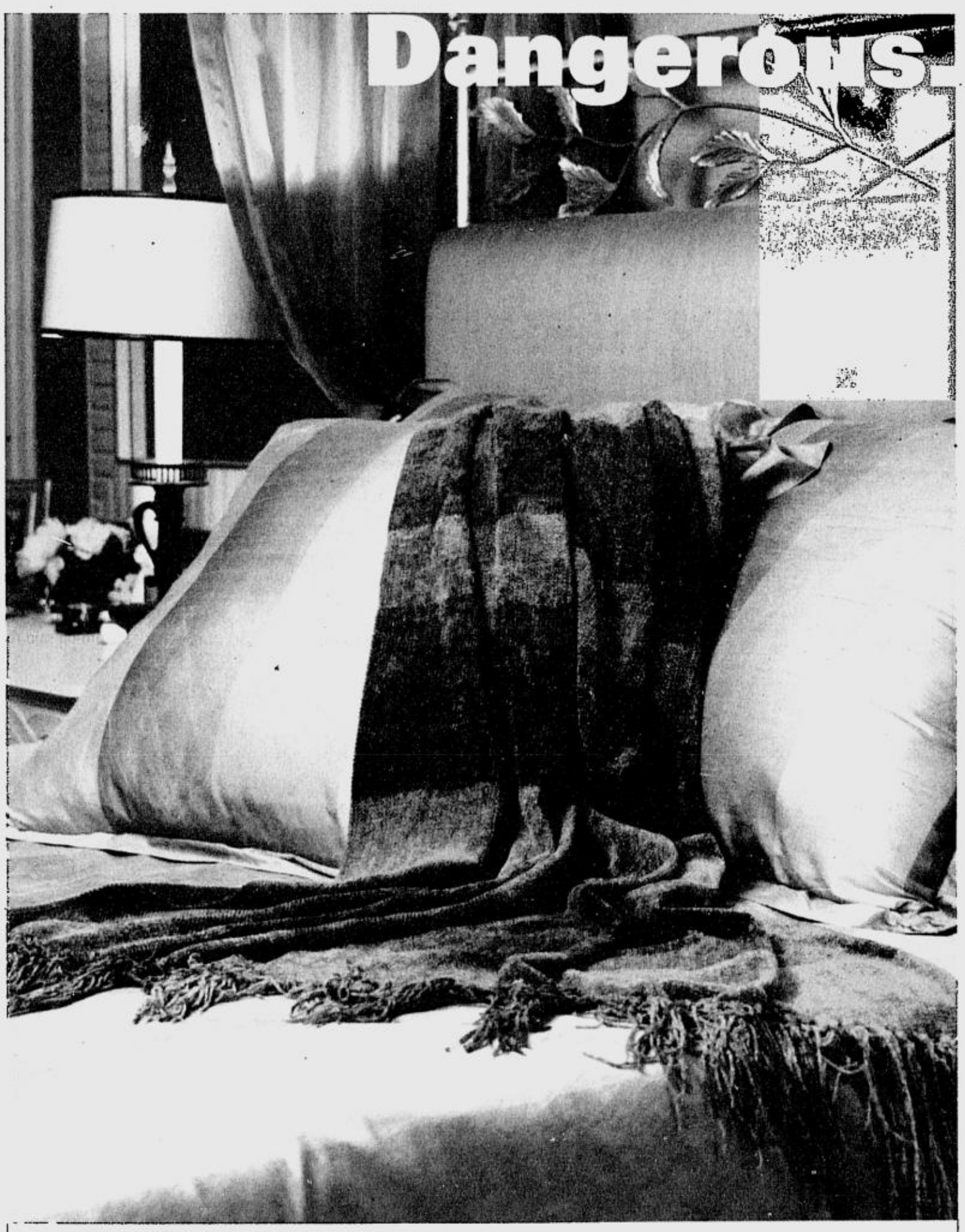
"She feels that she is personally indebted to him," the source said.

Both senators said they heard about the rumor not only from gossips in the halls of power, but from sources with access to the officials designated by the Palace to do "management work."

They pointed out that the move was timely because taking Reyes out of the defense department would appease the rebellious officers who led the July 27 coup attempt.

At the same time this would allow Reyes "to test the waters" to see if his "magnanimous act" would generate enough goodwill for him and the Palace and translate to a ground swell of support for a possible senatorial run next May, the sources added.





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Threats real, says Palace

From page A1

Garcia said.

Golez said that while some may think that "there might be some complications" with Reyes' departure, "there will be none."

Reyes, meanwhile, said he would not accept the post of public works secretary if it is offered to him because of fresh criticisms coming his way.

"I have not been named to the post but already I'm being criticized. People will again accuse me that I'm going there because I'm up to something," he told reporters who caught him in his old office packing his personal belongings.

But he hinted that he might be open to accepting a new government post although he had no idea what the President had planned for him.

Reyes said he was "enjoying the first day of being completely liberated from all kinds of responsibilities."

"This is the first time since I was 17 years old that I'm without a job, without any responsibility. So, it's an exhilarating feeling," he said.

He said there were "plenty of viable candidates" for his old job, but stopped short of naming them.

He had recommended that Defense Undersecretary Feliciano Gacis be appointed to take over as acting secretary.

Among those reportedly being considered for the post are special envoy to the Middle East Roy Cimatu, Dionisio Santiago, the director of the New Bilibid Prison and Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, all former AFP chiefs of staff; and Sen. Ramon Magsaysay who chairs the Senate defense committee.

Speaker Jose de Venecia has suggested former President Ramos whom he described as Asia's top soldier-statesman.

Bunye said the President, who will serve as concurrent defense secretary, would not continue to do so for long as it would be "difficult" for her.

Bunye said the President and members of her Cabinet were "saddened" by the resignation of Reyes who was "one of the pillars of the administration" and "a very loyal Cabinet member."

"We consider this as an act of sacrifice. It was a very good gesture on the part of Secretary Reyes," Bunye said.

He said Reyes' resignation was seen to have reduced tensions in the AFP as Reyes himself acknowledged that his continued presence was causing disunity in the ranks.

Reyes, who helped install Ms Macapagal as President following the military-backed second Edsa people power uprising in 2001, resigned in the wake of allegations of corruption and accusations that he allegedly masterminded the Davao bombings in April. He has strongly denied both charges.

The Presidential Anti-Graft Commission is investigating Reyes following reports that he was building a P10-million house.

Bunye could not say if the investigation would continue now that Reyes had resigned.

The militant Bayan Muna yesterday said Reyes was made the "sacrificial lamb" by the administration to quell the growing restiveness in the military and "pacify the turbulent political landscape."

But Reyes' resignation was not enough, said Robert de Castro, Bayan Muna deputy secretary general.

"The people have been demanding changes from the top. Ms Macapagal must also voluntarily step down," he said.

Ms Macapagal had finally realized that the restiveness in the AFP "will never stop as long as Reyes remains as DND secretary," said Teodoro Casiño, secretary general of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

Bayan is demanding that Malacañang replace Reyes with a civilian, "someone with no loyalties to the military and the vested interests that have infiltrated the defense establishment through the years."

From his exile in the Netherlands, Communist Party founder Jose Ma. Sison yesterday said that with the resignation of Reyes, "one big proven saboteur of the peace talks is gone."

Sison, who acts as consultant of the National Democratic Front, the communist party's political arm that is negotiating peace with the government, has accused Reyes of sabotaging the peace talks by "micro-managing" the government peace panel that is negotiating with the NDF.

Peace talks with the communists collapsed in mid-2001 after the rebels assassinated two legislators.

But the President has ordered government negotiators to maintain informal links with communist leaders. An exploratory meeting before the formal resumption of the peace negotiation was scheduled at the end of August but there have been no reports on whether it has already started.

In Davao City, the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front said it did not think that Reyes' resignation had been demanded by Malaysia as a condition for brokering the peace talks amid rumors that Kuala Lumpur had asked the President to dismiss Reyes as his presence was hindering the progress of the peace process.

"I don't think Malaysia will pressure anybody in the government to resign. That's not part of its role as facilitator," said Ghazali Jaafar, the MILF political affairs chief.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said the rebel group also never asked that Reyes be replaced.

"There are groups which wanted him out of the government because of his position on the peace process, but the MILF was not one of these groups," Kabalu said.

But the MILF was nevertheless happy about Reyes' departure, said Jaafar.

The MILF has publicly accused Reyes of being allegedly behind the series of attacks on the rebel group while negotiations to resume the stalled talks were going on.

"He is one of the hawks in the Macapagal administration," said Kabalu. *With reports from Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and Delfin T. Mallari, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Retirement home . . .

From page A1

cardinal's renal ailment, his younger brother Dr. Ramon Sin said.

The house is located near another two-story house also owned by the Sins.

Displayed on the ancestral home's ground floor are portraits of the prelate and his family and several paintings. There is also a chapel that can accommodate 50 people.

The Cardinal's bedroom, which adjoins his private office, is on the second floor.

The house contains some of Sin's most cherished possessions: souvenir medals from Pope John Paul II and former US President Ronald Reagan, icons from former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, a statuette from former Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and mementos from his two visits in China, the birthplace of his father.

People, usually priests and religious workers, regularly drop by to view the mansion.

The ancestral house was rebuilt and refurbished several times.

It originally served as a store and residence of Sin, his parents—Juan Sin and Maxima Reyes Lachica—and his siblings Salvacion, Rosario, Jose, Francisco, Maria, Manuel, Ramon and Ceferina.

"It was among the biggest stores then," recalled house caretaker Leonila "Leoning" Dacoro-on.

Dacoro-on, now 72, has been with the Sin family for nearly 50 years.

Dacoro-on said the store sold assorted products—from rice and textile to ready-made clothes and hardware products.

The Sins abandoned the house during the Japanese occupation to stay in another house on Sitio Dumlog in Tambak village.

When they went back after the war, they had to rebuild the house because it was razed.

Construction of the present house began in 1992 and was finished four years later.

Rare visits

It is usually unoccupied except during visits of the cardinal and his family. The last time Sin was there was July 30, when he had lunch with the clergy after the installation rites of Romblon Bishop Jose Corazon Tala-oc.

The prelate's four surviving siblings and their families are in Manila and the United States.

Dacoro-on said she missed the times when family members would fill the house during vacations and reunions.

Then, she recalled, Manong Amie (Sin's nickname) would play the harmonica while Dr. Sin played the piano.

"I can't imagine him retiring," Dacoro-on said in the local dialect. "He is still so active."

Regular dialysis needed

Dacoro-on said that while Sin will always be welcome to New Washington, she was worried that it would be difficult for the ailing prelate to stay in the house because he needs medical attention.

Dr. Sin said his brother needs to have his blood cleaned through a dialysis machine six times a week.

A battery of doctors, mostly from Cardinal Santos Memorial Hospital, keeps a close watch on Sin's kidney whose failure in 1998 nearly killed him. He's also diabetic but the ailment has long been controlled.

Sin was born in New Washington, which is 9 km southeast of the capital town of Kalibo, on Aug. 31, 1928. He finished his elementary education at the town school.

He was ordained priest in 1954 and soon left the town as a missionary in the mountains of Aklan, Dr. Sin said.

In 1974, Sin left Aklan to serve as archbishop of the See of Manila. He became cardinal two years later.

Waiting for Sin

Dr. Sin said that should his brother spend his retirement in New Washington, townsfolk will surely come in droves to visit him.

"They would love to have him for good. They've been waiting for him for a long time," Dr. Sin said. "The houses are ready and (the people) are just waiting for the Cardinal."

For sure, Dr. Sin said, the cardinal's favorite food—king-sized crabs, shrimps, Caesar's salad, steak and *lechon* (roast pig)—will be served in the ancestral house.

Dr. Sin said the last time he and the cardinal talked about his brother's retirement was in 2000, when Christendom celebrated its Jubilee Year.

"Hey, it's 2000 already and you're getting old," he recalled telling his brother.

"You're right. What do you think?" the cardinal was said to have replied.

Sin, however, abandoned whatever thoughts he might have entertained about a possible early retirement when then President Joseph Estrada was accused of pocketing millions in jueteng money, according to Dr. Sin.

Sin eventually rallied the people behind another bloodless revolt at Edsa, similar to what he did 15 years ago.

Dr. Sin said that if he were in his brother's shoes, he would already retire.

"I would rest already after having done so much. I think he has done enough for history, for the people," Dr. Sin said.

As mandated by Canon Law, Sin should submit his resignation to the Vatican today, his 75th birthday. This, however, does not in any way bind the Pope to accept the resignation.

Church insiders have said that the Vatican may extend Sin's term as archbishop of Manila because the Pope has not appointed a coajutor bishop to succeed Sin, which is normally done when an archbishop is set to retire.

If Sin does retire today, he would only cease to become Manila Archbishop but would remain a bishop for the rest of his life. Until the age of 80, he will still be part of the conclave that selects the next Pope, Dr. Sin said. *With a report from Blanche Rivera*

Looks like 'Jose Pidal' is Mike A's brother

From page A1

gal-Arroyo's husband Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Sources who saw the man during the interview with GMA 7 anchor Arnold Clavio aired Friday night described him as mestizo-looking and speaking English well. "He is not a politician," he is very close to the First Gentleman, and his wife occupies a very sensitive government position that has to do with the economy, the sources said.

They said the man who approached Clavio claiming to be Pidal owned haciendas "in the Visayas" and had extensive businesses abroad, particularly in the United States.

They also said Clavio had initially asked the man if they could conduct the interview in Tagalog but the man requested that it be in Taglish.

Clavio himself refused to divulge the real identity of the man he had interviewed, but said he would do so shortly. Earlier, he said he had no way of telling because he had yet to meet Ignacio Arroyo and did not know what the latter looked like.

Ignacio Arroyo, a Negros *hacendero*, is the Lakas chair for Western Visayas. He is married to Alicia Rita Morales-Arroyo, current chair of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

He is the same Ignacio Arroyo whom the First Gentleman identified in 1997 as the actual owner of two pieces of property in San Francisco, California, purportedly co-owned by Ms Macapagal.

Other sources said lawyers for Ignacio Arroyo would formally ask that the subpoena for Jose Pidal be served through them. Once this is done, the lawyers will submit to the Senate a copy of Ignacio Arroyo's statement claiming to be the owner of Pidal's Union Bank accounts. *(See "Cocktales" in Business section tomorrow.)*

Sources familiar with the man claiming to be Pidal said they knew that he handled campaign contributions for Ms Macapagal in 1998, when she ran as vice president and won.

According to the sources, the President's husband tried to stop the man from coming out in the open but the man insisted that it was time to surface and claim the Pidal accounts.

Asked about this matter, Clavio declined to comment. But he quoted the man as saying when they met: "Here I am."

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, however, is unconvinced.

Lacson said in a statement issued yesterday that the man claiming to be Pidal was a "fall guy."

IGNACIO ARROYO

He said the man's interview with Clavio was set up by the First Gentleman's camp "to protect the presidential spouse."

"*Baka lalo silang malubog sa ginagawa nilang yan* (With what they're doing, they might sink further)," the senator said, adding that the Filipino people were not so dumb as to believe the man's claim.

He also pointed out that the man came forward only after almost two weeks.

His own defense

Malacañang was careful to distance itself from the man claiming to be Pidal.

The President's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Malacañang's position on the issue was unchanged: that it would have nothing to do with matters involving accusations against the First Gentleman.

"We know that the First Gentleman would be mounting his own defense. The President would like the First Gentleman to handle his own defense on this matter," Bunye said when asked in an RMN-News interview for Malacañang's comment on the man claiming to be Pidal.

In a privileged speech, Lacson had accused Jose Miguel Arroyo of laundering P270 million from his wife's campaign contributions and keeping them in the Pidal bank accounts.

The First Gentleman has strongly denied this and filed libel charges against Lacson.

Bunye said Malacañang would monitor the Senate inquiry on the controversy, which had earlier led the President to declare that she would not extend protection to her husband because she was "married to the country."

The man claiming to be Pidal had told Clavio that he was ready to appear before the Senate when it opens its inquiry on the issue.

He also signed as "Jose Pidal" several times to prove that it was his signature that Lacson had earlier presented, and said he was willing to have the signature examined by experts.

Lacson said the credibility of the man claiming to be Pidal could be easily demolished by asking him a simple question: "How many Jose Pidal accounts did he open and in how many banks?"

He might not be able to answer, Lacson said.

The senator reiterated that Jose Pidal was the assumed name of the First Gentleman, and that he had enough evidence to prove this.

Lacson cited the sworn statement of Eugenio Mahusay Jr., godson and former personal messenger of Jose Miguel Arroyo, who claimed that he was just a foot away from the First Gentleman when the latter signed a check as Jose Pidal.

According to Lacson, Mahusay has also provided a list of bank accounts that the First Gentleman supposedly used for money laundering.

Lacson also said he found it suspicious that the man claiming to be Pidal had decided to be interviewed over national TV and chose to "hide his face from the camera instead of calling a big press conference."

He challenged the man to go to the House to claim the P1 million supposedly being offered by opposition congressmen to whoever could identify the real Pidal. If not, Clavio should claim the money himself, the senator said.

Lacson recalled that it was Clavio who first interviewed Angelo "Ador" Mawanay in 2001 in connection with allegations of the senator's supposed dollar accounts abroad.

He pointed out that after accusing him of "almost every crime" during the Senate hearings two years ago, Mawanay retracted all the allegations against him and pointed to the First Gentleman, then military intelligence chief Gen. Victor Corpus, and National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco "as responsible for making him say all the lies and profanity against [me]."

Reached by phone, Wycoco said the NBI would get in touch with Clavio tomorrow to ask how they could contact the man claiming to be Pidal. *With a report from Leila B. Salaverria*

Unsung heroes unsung no more

From page A1

of the few surviving veterans to tell the world of these little-known acts of heroism.

Through the museum, he said, "we want to tell the nation and our youth the story of the war guerrillas."

"We want to tell them that in our time, we were not watching movies or TV or whiling the time away in malls like most of them are doing today. We were out in the trenches and the frontlines fighting a war for our country," he said.

De Ocampo was part of the Hunters ROTC cadets that took a month to free two Japanese-held installations in the operation to liberate Fort McKinley, the former name of the Fort Bonifacio area that covers the property where the Veterans' Center now sits.

The Hunters ROTC group was then composed of young men in or barely out of their teens. Though unfamiliar with the Japanese firepower, they painstakingly worked around the concrete pillboxes in the tunnels spread in the area to destroy the Japanese-held installations.

De Ocampo said the museum was set up as "a race against time."

"The documents were getting lost and the memories of the battle-scarred veterans were fading. And the surviving veterans themselves were getting fewer and fewer," he said.

By his estimate, there are only about 150,000 WWII veterans left, most of them in their 80s and failing in health. Many of them are also destitute and depend solely on their small monthly pension for survival.

"Lapu-lapu resented the presence of foreigners. We did the same during the war," De Ocampo said. "We want the youth today to know that their elders put their lives on the line to preserve the integrity of the Philippines."

Rene R. Garcia, executive director of the museum and VFP vice president, was fresh out of high school when he joined the guerrillas. His moment of truth came on May 17, 1945, during the Battle of Ipo Dam.

In his account to the INQUIRER, Garcia said it was imperative for the guerrillas to take control of the Ipo Dam in Norzagaray, Bulacan, because it was the main source of Manila's drinking water at that time.

"Worse, the Japanese would have poisoned it," he said.

Garcia and his troops under the Markings guerrillas were able to take control of the dam, but not before he came face to face with a Japanese soldier who drove a bayonet through his chest and shot him in the right cheek.

In the struggle, he was able to wrest the gun away and to shoot the enemy soldier.

The gun and the bayonet are now part of the museum.

On his chest and right cheek are ugly scars; he is also practically blind in the right eye.

"I was barely out of high school then, and I learned the hard way how it is to fight for our country. What we want our youth to know is that we fought hard for the country we love, for the comfortable life that everybody is enjoying today," Garcia said.

Garcia said the battles in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao were just some of the untold stories of heroism against the Japanese.

This was the heroism of ordinary people—teachers, students, factory workers, writers, actors, boxers, Ifugao farmers, Muslim fishermen—who fought a common enemy for the land they loved.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2003

METRO

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MAKATI'S COMMAND CENTER

Bigger than Rescue 911

By Margaux Ortiz and Tina Santos

THE LATEST bank robbery in the central business district has prompted Makati City officials to fast-track its construction of a command center that promises to be "bigger than Rescue 911."

According to Joey Salgado of the city's information and corporate relations department, the command center will respond to disasters and accidents, monitor the city's traffic situation and help secure Makati City from crimes.

Rescue 911 is the popular emergency response and rescue system in the United States.

"This project is already one year in the making," Salgado said. "But because of recent developments, specifically the Citibank robbery, we feel that we need to hasten up the project for the benefit of the financial district and city residents."

He said the command center will be housed in a new building equipped with fiber optic cables and state-of-the-art technology.

Salgado said they are doing their best to make the center fully operational by next year.

According to Salgado, the project will include the installation of close circuit television (CCTV) monitors on major thoroughfares.

Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay had said in a meeting with bank security officers on Thursday that the project was originally meant to monitor the traffic situation in the city.

"Now the CCTVs will also serve as security cameras," Binay said.

The mayor added that the whole project—including the purchase and installation of the units—will cost P30 million.

In the same meeting, Binay said that as part of the new security plan for Makati, the city government will provide financial support for the operation of ten Special Action Force (SAF) teams in the business district.

Southern Police District (SPD) Director Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez announced in the meeting that the Philippine National Police had ordered the deployment of the SAF teams following Monday's daring bank heist.

Gutierrez said the teams will be deployed in Makati next week.

The SPD chief added that two teams will be assigned in vulnerable points "inside" the central business district.

He also said the rest of the teams will be stationed in the "outer areas" to prevent criminals from penetrating the financial district.

Binay said the SAF teams will provide several layers of security in the district where major banks, embassies and multinational companies hold office.

Binay also said the city government will also purchase additional firearms for the Makati police force.

Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco, National Capital Region Police Office chief, has welcomed the deployment of SAF troops in Metro Manila.

Velasco said that he has ordered the five district directors and station commanders to coordinate their intelligence and monitoring activities with the SAF and other law enforcement agencies.

Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., head of the national police, had ordered the deployment of SAF men in the metropolis to augment the 17,000-strong NCRPO force.

"The deployment of elite SAF personnel in Metro Manila will be a big boost to our overall campaign against bank robberies and other organized crimes," Velasco said.

He stressed that the SAF men are highly motivated, highly disciplined and are equipped with the latest crime-fighting equipment.

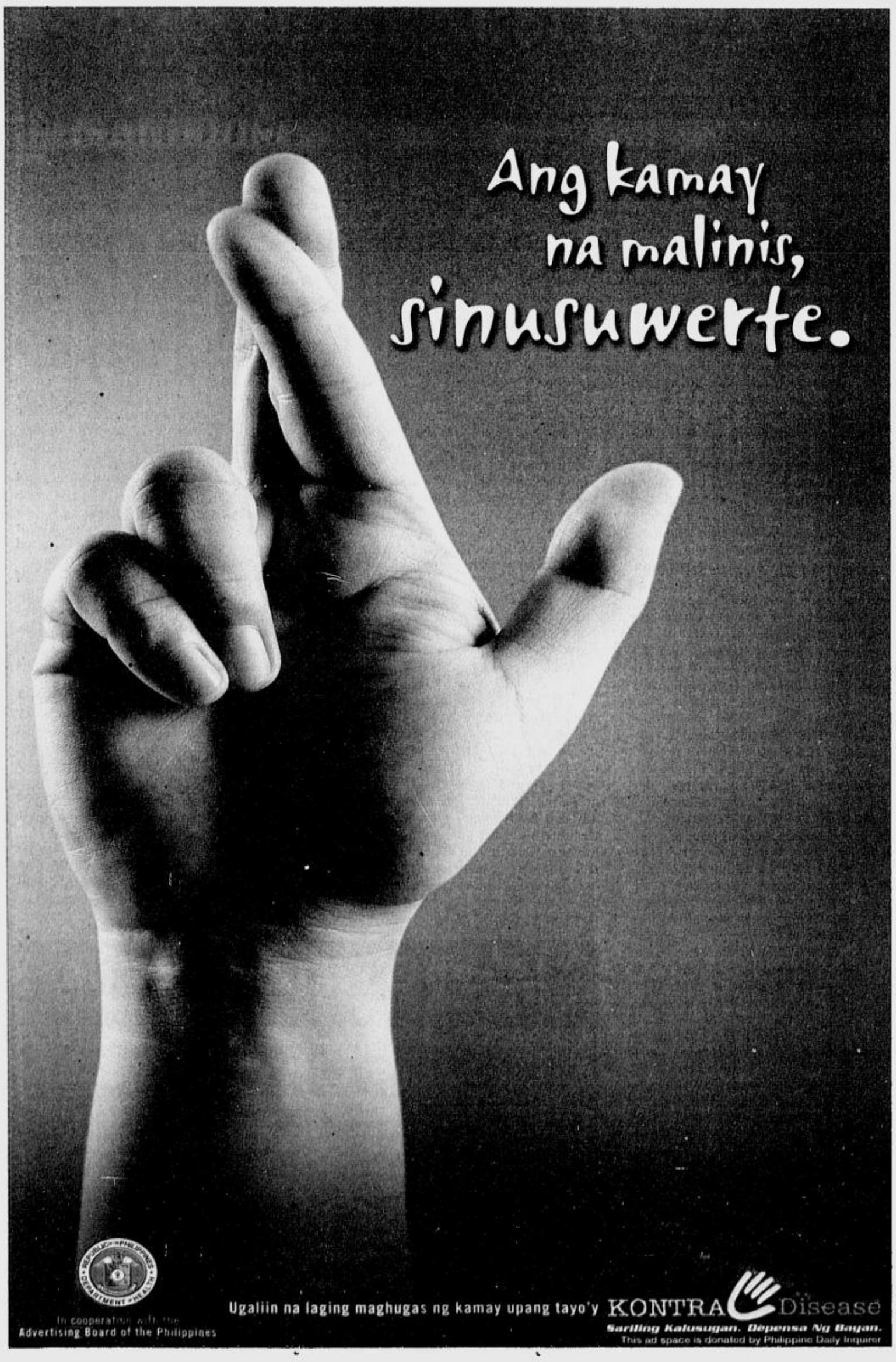
Velasco added that the SAF has been primed as a rapid deployment force that can strike anywhere in the country, especially in times of disaster and national emergency.

They have been trained for counterterrorism, hostage rescue, commando-type unconventional warfare, search and rescue, and civil disturbance management operations, Velasco said.

The SAF is under the command of Chief Supt. Servando Hizon.

The unit was organized in May 1983 to counter all forms of terrorism in the country.

PLAYTIME
Nothing can dampen the enthusiasm of the young at play. These two girls in Quezon City make do with with busted telephones, carrying on a conversation with only their imagination. JOAN BONDOC



Citibank execs talked of upgrading security on day of robbery

SECURITY officers of Citibank Center recall discussing among themselves the need to replace their outdated close circuit television units (CCTVs) with digital ones.

This was last Monday morning.

That afternoon, about 15 men armed with M-14 and M-16 assault rifles, robbed the bank on Paseo de Roxas Avenue in Makati City.

"This was the first time Citibank was robbed, not only in the Philippines but also in the world," said Ramon Orosa of the Sun and Shield security agency when he met with Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay last Thursday.

Sun and Shield is the agency in charge of Citibank Center's security.

Orosa said they were not aware that their morning topic would have a big effect in the investigation of the robbery.

He said authorities had a hard time identifying the robbers because of the CCTVs' hazy imaging.

Orosa said investigators had to rely on testimonies of the witnesses to identify the suspects.

"Now we will make sure to replace those outdated CCTVs with digital ones," Orosa said.

The security officer also explained that after the robbery, bank officials, who were supposed to give instructions to the security guards, were in an emergency teleconference with Citibank offices in Hong Kong, Singapore and New York.

That was why policemen were not allowed to enter the crime scene right away, Orosa said.

For his part, Binay said the existing memorandum of understanding between bank security officers and national police officials should be reviewed following the incident.

He noted that police did not receive any call or alarm from Citibank. He said the calls came from other nearby banks. Some calls also came from the police emergency hotline.

The mayor said bank officers should also review the bank's existing set-up where alarms are handled by a third party which evaluates the alarms before informing the police. *Margaux Ortiz*

Health workers bitter over ampalaya's fate

By Nini Valera

DIONISIO Narvaez will no longer be drinking his ampalaya tea, which he took as a food supplement after he was diagnosed as a Type 2 diabetic.

Narvaez, 56, said his doctor had told him that Department of Health Sec. Manuel Dayrit had issued a warning against ampalaya-based products and how these had not been proven to be effective against diabetes mellitus.

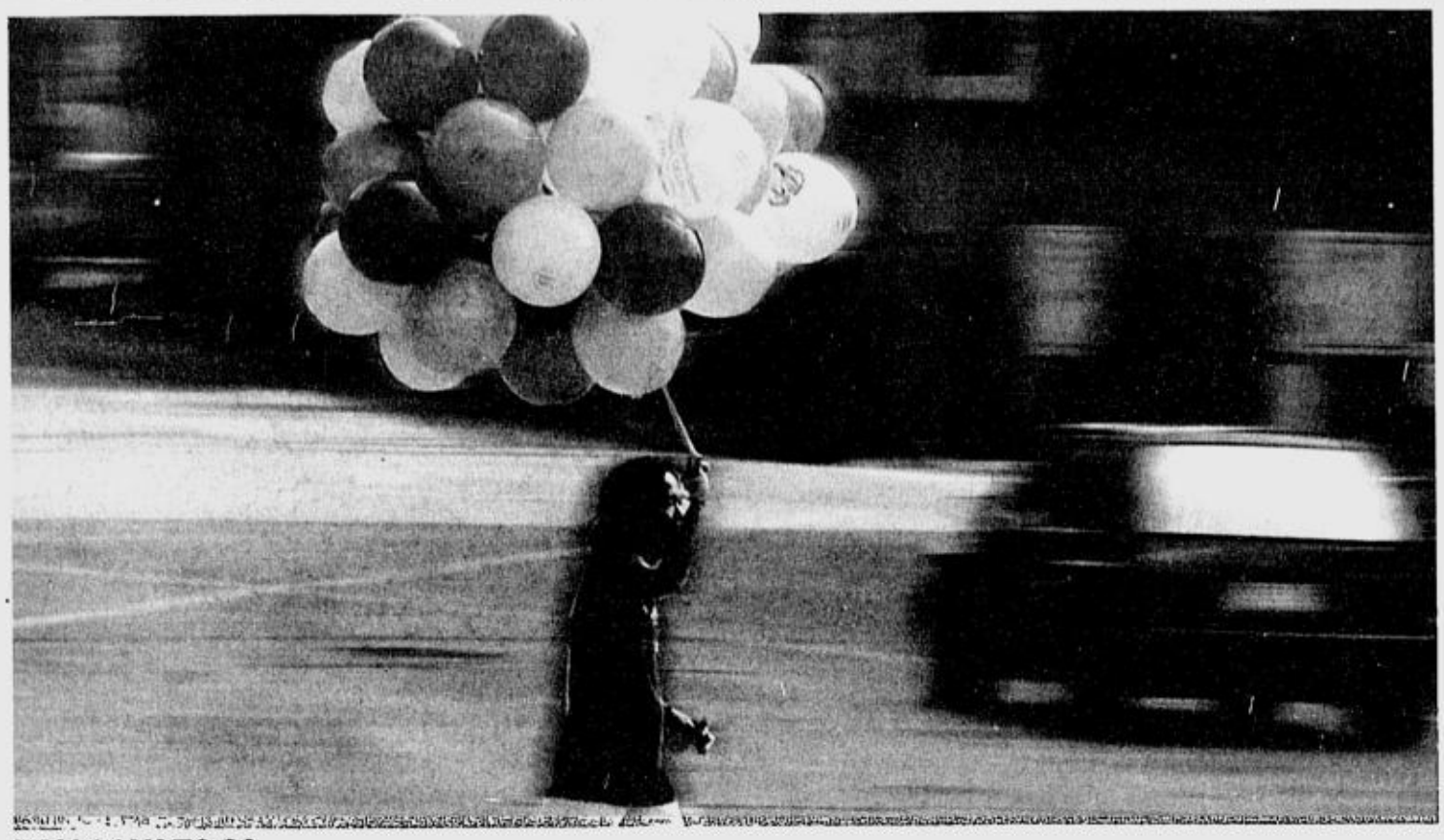
Ironically, the same doctor had introduced Narvaez to ampalaya tea after the patient complained to his doctor about the high cost of primary medicines for his disease.

"I felt better since I took ampalaya tea," Narvaez said in Filipino. "My blood sugar level became normal and has not risen in the months that I have been drinking the tea. Now, I have to take a full course of diabetes medication, which I can barely afford."

Dayrit's Circular 196-A series of 2003, which was issued on June 23, "strongly advised all concerned to cease, desist and discontinue any endorsement of ampalaya as an alternative treatment of diabetes mellitus."

It was also a complete turnaround from the existing Circular 168-A series of 1995, which listed ampalaya as among the ten herbs that had been scientifically validated and which the DOH had been promoting as adjuncts

HEALTH/ A23



BALLOONS TO GO
Delivering these balloons for a birthday celebration is a breeze for this man, who carries his load raised above his head while crossing Ayala Street in Manila yesterday. ERIK ARAZAS

In QC, elderly given jobs as caregivers

By Tina Santos

WHEN Florencia Borja retired from her job as a public school teacher after 30 years in government service, she admitted she was lost as to what to do with her time.

She said it was very difficult to adjust to her new-found environment. Suddenly, there were no more lesson plans to prepare, no test papers to correct or division meetings to attend.

But what bothered her the most was the thought of being idle and unproductive for the remaining years of her life which, whether she liked it or not, was inevitable.

Borja, who used to teach in a Manila school, said teaching for her was not merely a career, it is where her heart is.

Now, she and other senior citizens like her have turned to the Quezon City government for jobs to which they can devote their remaining years and energy.

Borja and 125 other elderly people have been hired by the Quezon City government on a part-time basis. Most are now helping out in day-care centers and centers for senior citizens. Some have also gotten jobs as caregivers for health centers or tutors in public schools.

While most people her age would tend to their grandchildren or grow orchids in their backyards, Borja was lucky enough to land a tutorial job at the Pag-asa Elementary School in Quezon City, doing research and library services.

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, who thought up the program, said they hope to encourage retirees to get back into the mainstream of productive labor while improving their self-worth.

"Senior citizens can still do many things," Belmonte said in a statement. "What the city government is doing right now is to encourage them to use their time productively."

The mayor expressed optimism that other local government units and private organizations will soon adopt the program to encourage retirees to remain competitive, useful and productive, despite their age.

Of the 125 retirees hired by the city government, 74 are caregivers in health centers, 28 are assisting in programs of the Social Services Development Department, 10 are with the Office of the Senior Citizens Affairs, while 8 are providing tutorial services in public elementary schools.

The remaining five are doing volunteer work at the QC Federation of Senior Citizens.

As a token of appreciation for their volunteer work, the 125 retirees were each given P2,000 in incentive pay during a simple ceremony recently held at city hall.

Students fielded to monitor Manila vendors

By Leila Salaverria

TALK about starting them young.

Two hundred third and fourth year level criminology students—most of whom are expected to embark on a career in law enforcement—have been tasked to help the city government collect the P20 daily fee imposed by Manila officials on vendors.

The students, all from the City College of Manila, would also help the Manila Hawkers Management Office (MHMO) to monitor the vendors' activities, whether they are complying with the city's vending rules and regulations.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza recently swore in the 200 volunteers at the Manila City Hall.

The volunteers would be deployed to the city's various organized vending areas and would each receive P150 in daily allowance. They would work in teams and would be accompanied by a police escort to ensure their safety. Each team would also be supervised by the MHMO, headed by Adil Khan, and would be equipped with two-way radios.

But Atienza clarified that the volunteers would not be allowed to enforce vending rules or participate in clearing operations.

"Your job is to collect fees and monitor compliance with vending rules and regulations in organized vending areas," Atienza told the volunteers. "If some vendors refuse to pay the fee or violate the rules, report them to the Hawkers Management Office."

He also said that with the swearing in of the volunteers, the city government is expected to double its annual P40 million collection from vendors.

"With idealistic volunteers helping out the hawkers management office, we are confident it will be able to meet this year's target," he said.

5 robbers take on armed cop

EVEN the armed policeman did not stand a chance against five robbers.

PO2 Al Tumangil Cabuatan of the Western Police District's Malate police station was held up by five unidentified men inside a passenger jeep in Pasay City on Friday night.

Police said that around 10 p.m., the five robbers pretended to be passengers and sat beside Cabuatan.

The robbers, who were armed with knives, forced the policeman to give them his cell phone and 9-mm Beretta service firearm, according to PO2 Alberto Sombilon.

The robbers then fled on foot at the corner of Buendia Avenue and Leveriza, police said.

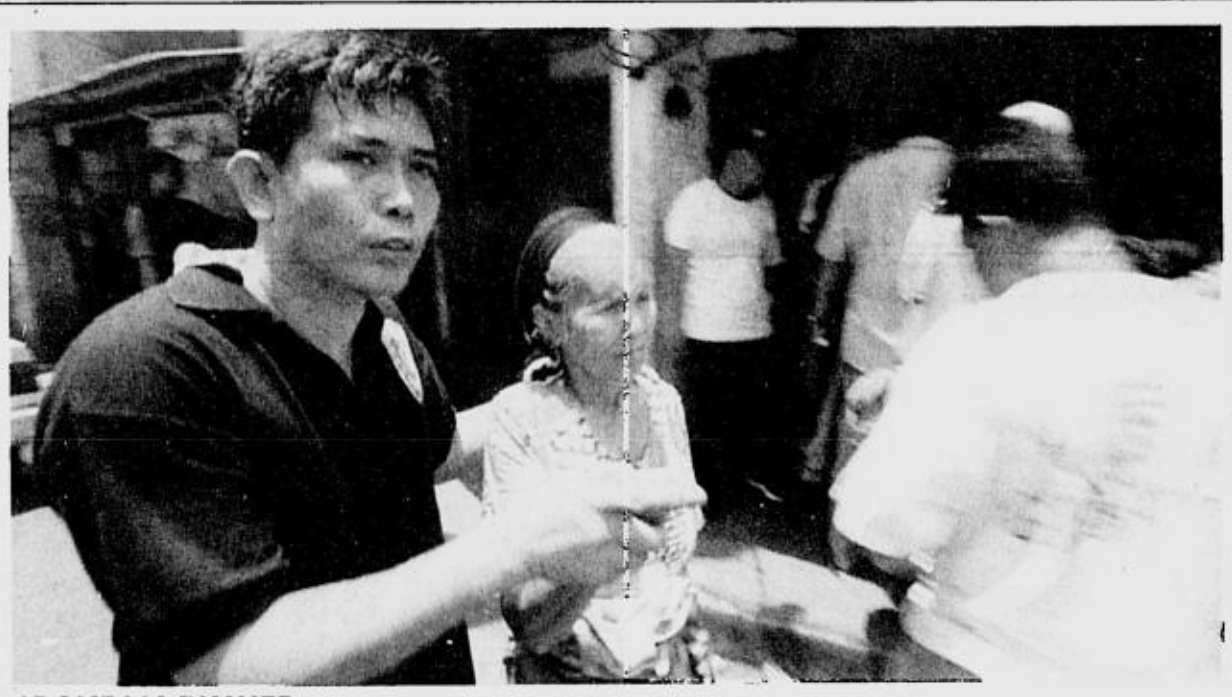
In Mandaluyong City, a jobless man who allegedly robbed a jeepney passenger could end up paying a heftier price after police found in his possession two plastic sachets believed to contain shabu.

The police said Eduardo Mamaril, 34, of Welfareville Compound, Mandaluyong, held up Mary Grace Delfin at around 10 p.m. on Nueve de Pebrero Street just as the victim was alighting from a jeepney.

Mamaril, who used an ice pick to threaten his victim, took Delfin's allowance for the week, police said.

Unfortunately for Mamaril, a mobile unit was patrolling the area. It did not take long before he was hauled to a police station.

Margaux Ortiz, Luige del Puerto



GRANDMA PUSHER
Mali Adris, 75, is being led away by an agent of the Manila Police's anti-drug unit after she was arrested for allegedly selling drugs in Quiapo, Manila. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Fallen hero of '87 coup remembered

THE MEMORY of Sgt. Eddie Esguerra, who gave his life to quell a rebellion in 1987, similar to the Oakwood incident, lives in a Quezon City avenue that was named after him.

Sgt. Esguerra Avenue is one of the major thoroughfares in the city where the compound of a broadcasting network is located.

It is a busy road that has taken on a new meaning, at least to the people who knew the man.

To them, the avenue has become a fitting tribute to the heroism of a police officer.

Last Friday, exactly 16 years after his death, Esguerra's courage was commemorated by his family and colleagues on the spot where he was shot to death while defending democracy during one of the coup attempts against the Aquino administration in 1987.

The ceremony was attended by members of the Esguerra family, former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr., Central Police District Director Chief Supt. Napoleon Castro, and retired Chief Supt. Rodolfo Garcia.

National Capital Region Police Office chief Deputy Director Reynaldo Velasco said Sgt. Esguerra, who belonged to the Metro Manila Police Force, epitomized what every cop should be.

Many of Sgt. Esguerra's former colleagues recalled how the lawman took to heart his sworn duty to serve and protect the people.

On Aug. 29, 1987, rebel forces took over several installations in Metro Manila as they demanded the resignation of then President Corazon Aquino.

Television stations were being taken over one after the other by the rebels.

Esguerra was among the members of the police force who were called to defend the newly established democracy.

While other policemen scampered for cover at the sight of an APC tank, Esguerra who only had an armalite rifle to defend himself with, had stood his ground.

Rebel soldiers gunned him down.

Police officers present during the ceremony were united in saying that Esgurerra should not only be known as an avenue in Quezon City, but as someone who could represent the faceless victims of political clashes. *Tina Santos*

Health workers bitter...

From page A22

to treatments of various diseases.

The benefits of the ten herbs—which include garlic, lagundi, sambong and guava among other herbs and plants—are in medical textbooks and have become subjects of scientific studies.

Herb-based preparations have also gained market acceptance, generating sales of almost P800 million in 2002.

Dayrit's reversal of a national policy also left the government health community bewildered.

Dr. Guia Abad, municipal health officer of Sta. Cruz, Laguna and president of the Association of Municipal Health Officers of the Philippines, said she could not understand why Dayrit did a turnabout in the issue of ampalaya.

"As doctors, we are not irresponsible," she said. "When we use any ampalaya preparation, we tell the patients that this is only a supplement, not a cure."

She explained that diabetes, which afflicts millions of Filipinos, mostly men, is an issue of life.

"I come from a family of diabetics," she said. "I have impaired glucose tolerance. Then I started drinking ampalaya tea, whose brand is Charantia, and I found it to be good in bringing down my blood sugar. Why should I wait to become a diabetic?"

Abad said she used the ampalaya tea for 8 months before she advised her patients to use it as a food supplement. She has since advised her brother, a diabetic, to take ampalaya tea regularly.

She also cites the case of one of her patients in the municipal health clinic whose condition improved after taking ampalaya tea.

"I saw his sugar level had gone down gradually and had been maintained," said Abad. "He feels good, he no longer needs as much primary medications. A diabetes patient drinks as many as five different pills a day. So I enjoined them to continue drinking the ampalaya tea."

But she warned that diabetes patients must not stop their primary medications even if their sugar level has normalized.

"What we're trying to tell the patient is this (ampalaya tea) is not medicine, but it will help his system burn the sugar in his body," Abad said.

Dayrit's Circular is not only hurting municipal health workers, who have turned to herb-based preparations to lower their patients' cost for medicines. It has also virtually stunted the growth of the local herb business, which was on the throes of going global.

"The problem here, I think, is there are drug companies which have realized that there were patients who used to take six tablets or two kinds of tablets a day for their diabetes," Abad said.

But with the advent of ampalaya teas and pills, the patient can reduce the primary medication to two pills a day, she said.

"Why hit ampalaya? I am in a situation where almost 65 percent of the population can barely have their altanghap (breakfast, lunch and dinner). How can I give my patients a prescription that I know they cannot afford to buy?"

Lawmen go after illegal CD vendors in Caloocan City

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority's sidewalk clearing operatives may be mellowing down now, but vendors may not yet breathe a sigh of relief.

A week ago, members of the Northern Police District Office have been deputized to assist the Videogram Regulatory Board in clearing operations against vendors of pirated compact discs (CDs).

On Thursday, members of the NPD's Mobile Force confiscated about 1,000 illegals CDs from four sidewalk vendors in Caloocan City.

At about 3 p.m. on Thursday, the lawmen conducted anti-piracy operations on Bustamante Street, Bonifacio Monument Circle, Caloocan, where they arrested vendor Rolando Ocampo, 30.

The police seized 276 illegal CDs and VCDs from Ocampo.

Minutes later, the group proceeded to Langaray Public Market in Caloocan where they came across three other vendors selling pirated video materials.

About 280 illegal CDs and VCDs were confiscated from William dela Paz; 175 CDs from Jona Magos, 21, and 150 CDs from Maximo Napao, 38.

The police also proceeded to Malabon City where 65 pieces of pirated materials were confiscated from Ramon Ancheta.

The arrested vendors had makeshift stalls where they sell pirated discs. Prices range from P25 to P50 per CD and VCD.

At about 5 p.m. that same day, policemen from Valenzuela City Station 6 arrested Marilyn de Guzman, who was seen selling pirated materials on C. Molina Street, Barangay Veinte Reales, Valenzuela.

On Wednesday, the police seized more than 11,000 pieces of pirated materials inside the house of two Taiwanese in Malabon City.

The Caloocan City Police also confiscated more than 2,000 pieces on Aug. 26 from sidewalk vendors on Rizal Avenue Extension.

Atienza hits solon's HK treat for barangay elders

By Tarra Quismundo

GOOD intentions are not good enough.

This was what Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said about Manila 3rd District Rep. Harry Angping's educational trip sponsorship for some 60 barangay chairmen in his district.

"Nobody is exempt from the law," said Atienza. "They should have followed the procedure."

Angping recently told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that he may have "overlooked" some aspects of the procedure when he brought the barangay chairmen to Hong Kong and Shenzen, China last week.

For each chairman, Angping spent $140 for the travel package and P3,000 for token shopping money.

The congressman said the money was from a "private fund," most of which came from his own pocket.

Angping said that it was "worth the investment" since the barangay chairmen learned a lot about developments in China.

The investigation of the Manila Barangay Bureau revealed that the chairmen were made to sign a waiver declaring that they were not public officials, according to Atienza.

However, Atienza said, the chairmen should have asked for permits first.

"Any public official should inform his office that he would be absent for a trip, within or out of the country, to prevent a vacuum in leadership," Atienza said.

In a recent interview, Barangay Bureau Extensive Director Norberto Enriquez said that they did not even know that the chairmen went on a three-day trip, from August 20 to 23.

"What if something happened in their barangay while they were gone?" said Enriquez.

Angping said that he is ready to face the consequences, even if it meant a jail term.

"The city jail will be ready for him," said Atienza.

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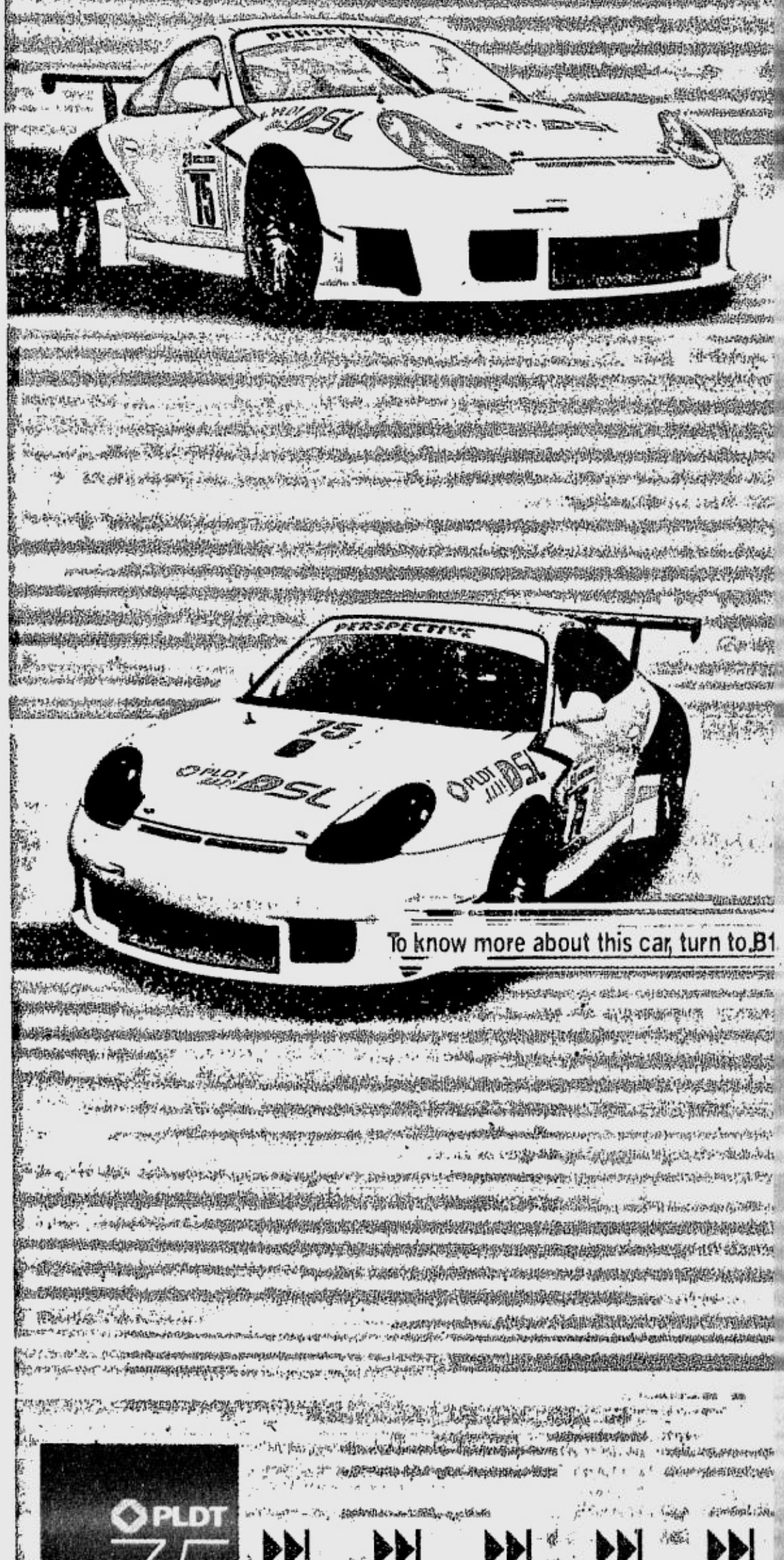

To know more about this car, turn to B1

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SUNDAY,
AUGUST 31, 2003

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A 25

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BRENT RENTAL

PSC gets ₱39-M windfall

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE CASH-STRAPPED Philippine Sports Commission will soon receive a P39-million windfall from Brent School's rental of facilities inside the Philsports complex in Pasig.

PSC chair Eric Buhain announced this yesterday after forging a compromise agreement with Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus that ended nine years of standoff over which government agency has legal rights to the sports complex.

The lease contract of Brent School was not renewed since 1989 due to the PSC-Education row which even led to a court case in 1994 and the rental fees, which were deposited in an escrow account, now amount to P39 million.

Buhain praised the Education head for his commitment to youth and sports development in yielding to the PSC complete jurisdiction over the sports complex.

"We in the PSC would like to express our deepest gratitude to Secretary De Jesus for his genuine concern for the youth, national athletes and development of local sports in general," said Buhain.

Buhain also acknowledged the cooperation of the Brent School management, which, he said, had formally sent a letter of intent to renew its contract.

"They have been very helpful and cooperative in our effort to end this issue for the good of all the institutions involved," said Buhain.

The unexpected bonanza, Buhain said, would go to the promotion of PSC's grassroots development programs, payment of debts, repair and refurbishment of facilities, and assistance to National Sports Associations (NSAs).

BUHAIN

It was the second major fund boost for the sports agency following the recent "Medalyang Ginto, May Laban Tayo (Gold medal, we have a chance)" project initiated by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, who was able to raise P20 million for the training of the SEAG-bound athletes during a pledging session attended by the country's top businessmen in Malacañang.

The PSC had already scrapped three grassroots development projects and transferred the savings to the SEAG fund. The agency had also requested the NSAs to prioritize their respective buildups for the SEAG following a slash in its monthly allocation from Pagcor.

Aside from the monthly allowances of the athletes in the national pool and their coaches, the PSC will also fund the actual participation of the RP contingent in the Vietnam SEAG this December. The delegation is expected to reach 600 when the final list is submitted to organizers late next month.

The PBA provides the PSC with another major income at Philsports from its use of office space and the air-conditioned basketball court previously known as Ultra.

GMA gives ₱1-M bonus to softball champs

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has gifted with a P1-million incentive the Bacolod City Little League girls team that recently won the Softball World Series in the 13-14 years category in Kirkland, Washington.

The team is composed of Ma. Rossinni Antipattia, Ailyn Benedicto, Fairbee Cabuguason, Bedian Deala, Nelsa Delagente, Aiza de la Torre, Christian Jade Declines, Angelyn Debulgado, Rachel Fuentes, Ana Marie Moneva, Tresha May Rodriguez and Rose Parcia.

They received the money earmarked for their educational expenses at the Paglaum National High School personally from the beaming President last week in Malacañang.

But some of the money will be used to pay for their travel expenses, according to Rep. Monico Puentevella of Bacolod, who accompanied the players to the Palace.

Also present during the courtesy call were Bacolod City Little League president Gerald Castano and secretary general Mario Macainan, team manager Reynaldo Fuentes, coaches Edwin Abellana and Renato Fuentes, and Charles and Annabelle Mosser.

The champion team was one of the four Philippine clubs which qualified in World Series for girls this year. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

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Warriors nip Tams; UST alive

GAMES TODAY (*Blue Eagle Gym*)
11 a.m.—Ateneo vs UP (Jrs)
2 p.m.—Ateneo vs UP (Srs)
4 p.m.—La Salle vs NU (Srs)
6 p.m.—La Salle Zobel vs NU (Jrs)

By Dennis U. Eroa

SWINGMAN James Yap and Paul Artadi redeemed themselves as University of the East got back at Far Eastern, 77-72, yesterday to pave the way for another thrilling Final Four race in the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Araneta Coliseum.

Yap, who missed two free throws as FEU escaped with a 64-62 win in the first round, shot a game-high 23 points while Artadi added 14 as UE held its ground in the face of an all-out homestretch rally by the Tams.

Despite suffering their second straight loss, the Tamaraws held on to the lead in a tie with defending champion Ateneo with an 8-win, 3-loss record.

UE improved to 7-3 with La Salle occupying solo fourth at 6-4.

"We're within striking distance of the leaders," said UE coach Boyzie Zamar, a member of the UE team which won back-to-back titles in 1984-85.

Vindicating himself, Yap calmly converted two free throws to end FEU's rally and set the final score.

Arnold Booker added 15 points while Olan Omiping finished with 13, including a triple that powered the Warriors to a 73-69 lead, 2:30 left.

FEU tormented UE one last time as Gerard Jones and Dennis Miranda conspired to make it 72-75.

Jay-Ar Estrada bungled two free throws but FEU's hopes collapsed when Ryan Rizada and Jones missed, forcing Miranda to foul Yap.

Meanwhile, Dondon Villamin's triple lifted Santo Tomas to a 64-61 win over Adamson.

UST improved its win-loss card to 4-6, while Adamson's bid to get closer to La Salle suffered a setback as it dropped to 5-6.

SCORES:

Second Game (Srs)

UST 64—Vizcarra 17, Villamin 16, De Guzman 8, Luanzon 6, Espiritu 5, Sumalinog 5, Manansala 3, Evangelista 2, Raterta 2, Pribdhas 0.

ADAMSON 61—Cabahug 16, Abadia 11, Bono 10, Tajonera 7, Tagupa 7, Hate 5, Alonzo 3, Kong 2, Poloyapoy 0, Tiongco 0, Catabay 0.

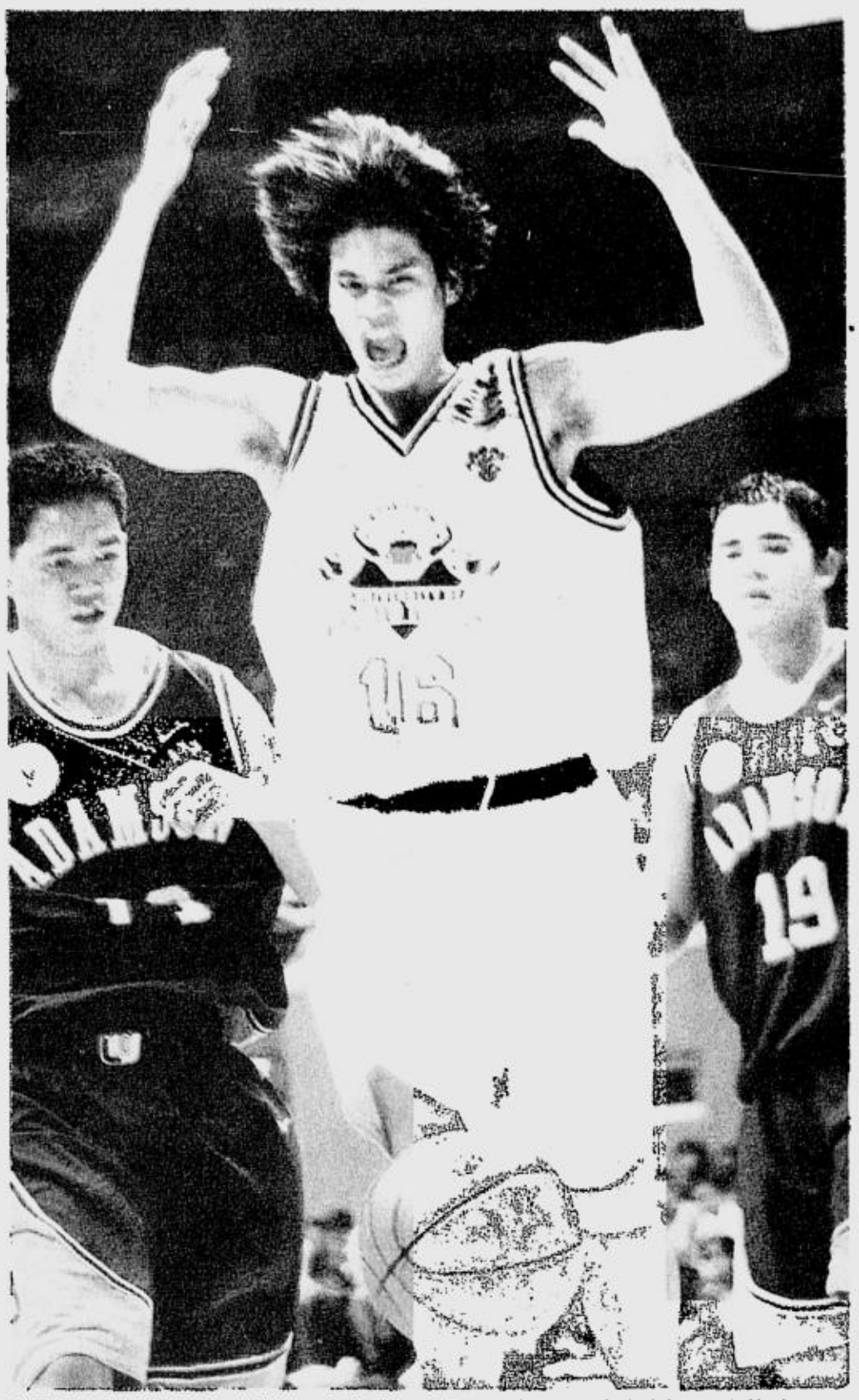
Quarters: 13-11, 26-30, 41-44, 64-61

Third Game (Srs)

UE 77—Yap 23, Booker 15, Artadi 14, Omiping 13, Canaleta 4, Butel , Masbang 2, Alminario 2, Hubalde 1, Tan 0, Ronquillo 0.

FEU 72—Catli 16, Rizada 16, Isip 12, Santos 10, Jones 7, Miranda 6, Zablan 2, Yabut 2, Sinco 1, Razon 0.

Quarters: 22-18, 42-40, 64-60, 77-72.



UST's Rene de Guzman (16) loses the ball in a rebound play. At right is Adamson's Karl Bono. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Lloyd fires 43 as Barako tops FedEx

GAMES TODAY (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
4:30 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Shell
6:30 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Ginebra

By June Navarro

RED Bull Barako paraded an explosive import and rolled back FedEx, 100-92, yesterday at the start of the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Easter College in Baguio City.

Import Ramel Lloyd erupted for 43 points and Davonn Harp added 16 as the Thunder overhauled a 10-point deficit in the third quarter to down the Express.

Playing almost without relief, Lloyd converted 17 of his 31 attempts from the field, including six three-pointers and a fastbreak slam that put the Thunder comfortably ahead, 94-86, with four minutes remaining.

The Express threatened on Yancy De Ocampo's triple, 91-94, but they missed seven of their eight last shots down the stretch.

Terrence Shannon led the Express with 29 points while Vergel Meneses and Renren Ritualo added 15 and 10 points, respectively.

Meanwhile, Barangay Ginebra's Jun Limpot will be strutting his wares for the Gin Kings sooner than expected.

PBA Commissioner Noli Eala yesterday revealed that the Ginebra forward would be reactivated later this week after submitting the necessary requirements for reinstatement.

Eala said Limpot, who was suspended indefinitely along with eight others after failing a mandatory drug test late in the All Filipino Conference, had submitted documents showing that he underwent medical counseling as prescribed by the league.

"We decided to grant Limpot's request for reinstatement after satisfying all the requirements we asked from him," said Eala.

SCORES:

RED BULL 100—Lloyd 43, Harp 16, Torion 10, Asaytono 9, Villanueva 6, Pennisi 5, Valenzuela 4, Miller 3, Robinson 2, Tugade 2, Reyes 0.

FEDEX 92—Shannon 29, Meneses 15, Ritualo 10, Ferriols 9, Billones 9, Yap 8, De Ocampo 7, Codinera 3, Arboleda 2, Rodriguez 0.

Quarters: 26-26, 44-52, 80-79, 100-92

Late eagle lifts Rose past Singh

NORTON, Massachusetts—Britain's Justin Rose eagled the 18th hole to grab the lead after the first round of the $5 million Deutsche Bank Championship on Friday.

Rose finished with an eight-under-par 63, good enough for a two-stroke lead over Vijay Singh of Fiji and Cliff Kresge. Brent Schwarzrock, Pat Bates, Steve Flesch, Arron Oberholser, Tim Petrovic and Garrett Willis were all on 66.

Northern Ireland's Darren Clarke, who won the NEC Invitational in Akron, Ohio last week, was one of seven players on 67, four-under. World number one Tiger Woods shot a 70 and was tied for 26th in this new PGA Tour competition.

Rose, 23, playing his 10th event on this year's tour, made a sizzling start and did not let up.

"I got off to a fantastic start early on," he told reporters. "I stiffed it (hit the ball close) on one and then stiffed it on four, five and seven.

After making the turn in a five-under 31, Rose carded seven successive pars before birdying the 17th when he hit an eight-iron to three feet.

At the 18th, the Briton struck a four-iron 231 yards to the back fringe of the green and drained his 14-foot eagle putt.

"It was a fairly easy putt, actually," Rose said. "Pretty flat, with about six inches right to left." Rose's fine performance followed several weeks of poor results.

After tying for fifth at the US Open and third at the French Open, he missed the cut at the European Open, the Scottish Open and the British Open.

Rose took time off after shooting 79-80 at Sandwich but again missed the cut when he returned for the US PGA Championship. He was 33rd at last week's NEC event. *Reuters*

ROSE tosses his ball as he waits to hit. AP

Gate hits bus, injures 6 fans

FOXBORO, Massachusetts—Six people were injured Friday afternoon when a bus crashed as it was shuttling spectators between Gillette Stadium and the Deutsche Bank Championship.

The bus was hit by a parking lot gate that was blown shut by the wind, a Foxboro police spokeswoman said.

The gate hit the bus in an area where passengers were sitting, state trooper David Parsons said. Three people were seriously injured and were taken by helicopter to Boston Medical Center. The other three were taken to area hospitals. AP

MGC forges 2-2 tie with Alabang; final duel today

By Jong Arcano

JOVANNI Chuaunsu and Jojo Guingona delivered another heroic act by winning the aggregate format to salvage a 2-2 draw for defending champion Manila Golf Club with Alabang yesterday at the start of the 2003 Federation Golf League championship showdown.

Chuansu's birdie from 20 feet and a par-saver from six feet by Jojo Guingona earned for them a 1 up victory over the Alabang pair of Edwin Arcilla-Seve Roxas Chua, a nick-of-time delivery after the golfers from Forbes Park had already lost in best ball and seemed certain to lose the scramble duel as well.

The draw gave Alabang a big psychological edge as the match heads to the Ayala-Alabang village today for the conclusion of the home-and-away series. The matches start at 8 a.m.

Big bind

Manila Golf is in a big bind. It has to beat its rival in its home course to retain the title and in a worse-case scenario duplicate the same 2-2 result to at least forge a sudden-death playoff.

Manila Golf had gone through a playoff to reach the finals, needing a chip-in birdie by Chuaunsu on the second extra hole to get past Riviera in an away match.

The defending champions were hard pressed to win at home in anticipation of a tough grind at Alabang but even came close to losing.

JP Reyes led Dodo Cu-unjieng to an easy 6&5 demolition of Caloy Coscolluela-Pete Cervantes in high-low to draw first blood for Manila Golf.

Alabang, however, evened up matters in best ball where Iggy Clavecilla-Rolly Castro outplayed Manoling Chan-Joey Yujuico, 3&2.

Scramble duel

The scramble duel slipped off MGC's grip after young King Stehmeier and Rey Escuadro preserved a 1 up lead over Richie Garcia and Dennis Valdes all the way to the finish.

"We failed to hit our target of winning our home match but tomorrow is another day. We know what we have to do to keep the crown," said MGC captain Arsenic Laurel.

Manila Golf is bidding to become only the second team to repeat as champion while Alabang is eyeing its first ever victory in the Fed League, a 15-team competition involving the country's most exclusive clubs.

Alabang reached the finals after booting out the top-seeded Forest Hills.

Norman course unveiled in inaugural weekend

THERE is always a course for every good or foul mood and a swing refined or not at the spanking Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club.

The Dye course requires a certain degree of ability, the Faldo layout makes for a good test of consistency and the Aoki's friendly character offers quite a reprieve for the weary.

The Norman course set to be unveiled next month completes a four-course menu that is no less than perfect for the appetite.

Four courses in one complex, a myriad of 72 holes each needing a distinct shot and yes, a friendly, relaxed atmosphere provided by three separate clubhouses which will all be in the spotlight during the Eagle Ridge Inaugural Weekend on Sept. 20-21.

Members and their guests will have the rare distinction of being part of an unprecedented event—playing in four simultaneous competitions at Eagle's four courses with different formats in a single day—on Saturday, Sept. 20.

Aptly called Fore x Fore, the tourney will celebrate the completion of the country's biggest golf complex, a multi-billion joint venture of Alsons Land Corp. and Sta. Lucia Realty on a 700-hectare prime property in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

Winfred Gob, an engineer and project director of Eagle Ridge, said that they are letting the senior players take a first crack at the Norman in the Inaugural Weekend to let them enjoy the good-natured design of a course by the man called the Great White Shark.

"The Norman course will definitely make a first impression that will last, a beauty distinct from the three others in the complex with such gentleness that will keep you coming back," said Gob.

He noted that the Norman is one of the first local courses to use the Silica bunker concept, a new design which greatly reduces chances of fried eggs lies and makes the sand traps along the route of a hole visible off the tee and the fairway.

For inquiries, members and interested parties may call 046-4192855.

Also to be formally inaugurated on Sept. 20 is the state-of-the-art Family Clubhouse, the biggest of the three clubhouses at Eagle which houses a 14-lane bowling alley, billiards hall, badminton courts, tennis courts, a basketball court and a resort-type swimming pool.

There will be a lot of activities to be held during the Inaugural Weekend apart from sports. The entertainment fare for the whole family include film showing at the club theater, a magic show, a concert and a fireworks display to cap the day.

SPORTS notable

Bong Barrameda VOL. I NO. 051

In the news

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1 > 3 Pts.
☐ True /☐ False: With 11 titles, Tim Cone is now the winningest coach in PBA history after Alaska aced the Samsung-PBA Invitational Championship.

2 > 5 Pts.
Antonio Barrera of Mexico, whom Manny Pacquiao will face in a megabuck showdown in November, is considered the world's best boxer in what division?
☐ Bantamweight
☐ Featherweight

3 > 7 Pts.
Whom did Efren "Bata" Reyes beat to win the 2nd Annual Gabriel's Las Vegas 9-Ball Open in Nevada?
☐ Charlie Williams (USA)
☐ Mika Immonen (Finland)
☐ Niels Feijen (Netherlands)

4 > 10 Pts.
Which Asian country hosted the just-ended World Student Games?
☐ Japan
☐ Malaysia
☐ South Korea

5 > 20 Pts.
Who made history at the World Gymnastics Championships in Anaheim, California, by becoming the first competitor—male or female—in the sport's history to win a third all-around gold medal?
☐ Svetlana Khorkina
☐ Paul Hamm
☐ Carly Patterson
☐ Yang Wei

6 > 25 Pts.
Who's the American sprinter who pulled out of the World Athletics Championships in Paris, rather than being forced to withdraw because of his protest over a false start in the quarterfinals of the 100 meters?
☐ Maurice Greene
☐ Bernie Williams
☐ Tim Montgomery
☐ Jon Drummond

7 > 30 Pts.
"You're so fast, junior": Driving for Renault, Fernando Alonso of Spain became the youngest Formula One winner in history by ruling the Hungarian Grand Prix in Budapest. How 'old'?

ANSWERS/ A29

ROSALES lines up a putt on the ninth green. AP

STATE FARM CLASSIC

Jenny knocks on title door again

JENNY Rosales is coming home next week. And if she can find a way, she wants a champion's trophy in her luggage.

"Next week I'm going back to the Philippines, stay there for three weeks and it would be great if I win," said Rosales after a superb round of five-under-par 67 Friday to snatch a tie for second place in the LPGA State Farm Classic in Springfield, Illinois.

Rosales knocked in a 15-foot birdie on the last hole to cap a bogeyless round at the rain-softened par-72, 6,558-yard Rail course, again putting herself in a position to finally win her first tournament as a pro.

But to do that, the 24-year-old Rosales will have to get past two of the LPGA's hottest players—Candie Kung of Taiwan and Hee Won-Han of South Korea. The three will form the final threesome in the third round on Saturday.

Kung, seeking her second win in as many weeks after ruling the Wachovia Classic, shot a four-under 68-131 and widened her lead to four strokes over Rosales and Han, a two-leg winner this year, who shot a 69.

Dorothy Delasin likewise stayed in the hunt with her 69-139, good for a share of 13th spot.

Rosales teed off in the back nine and made only one birdie on the 11th as the rains fell all day. A birdie from 18 feet on the first got her all fired up and she tapped in for another on the par-5 fourth. She banged home an 8-footer on the sixth before getting her fifth birdie on the ninth.

She opted at the last minute to skip last week's leg to rest her sore back and J-Ro seems to have made the right decision.

"I'm pretty happy with where I am. There are still two more days, and it's anybody's ball game right now. I will just get out there and do the same things," she said.

Rosales is enjoying her best season so far in the LPGA, barely missing her first title when she lost in a playoff for the Giant Eagle LPGA Classic. Her current winnings of $343,673 is so far her biggest in four seasons with still five legs left in her schedule.

In Fukuoka, Japan, Frankie Miñoza birdied three of the last four holes for a five-under-par 67 that boosted him to 21st place after three rounds of the Hisamitsu-KBC Augusta tournament at the Keya Golf Club.

Starting the day in 50th position, Miñoza had two quiet birdies through 16 holes until he went birdie-par-birdie-birdie. He stood at 209, seven shots adrift of solo leader Soushi Tajima.

The Japanese shot a 68 for 202 for a one-stroke lead over his second-round co-leader Dinesh Chand.

Jong Arcano

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: US Open 2003; 7 a.m. (r-7 p.m.) and 11 p.m.; Star Sports—The field is further reduced as third and fourth round goes underway in New York.

BASKETBALL: Tournament of the Americas; 7 p.m.; Solar Sports; 9 p.m.; IBC 13 and Solar Sports—It's down to the final four in Puerto Rico.

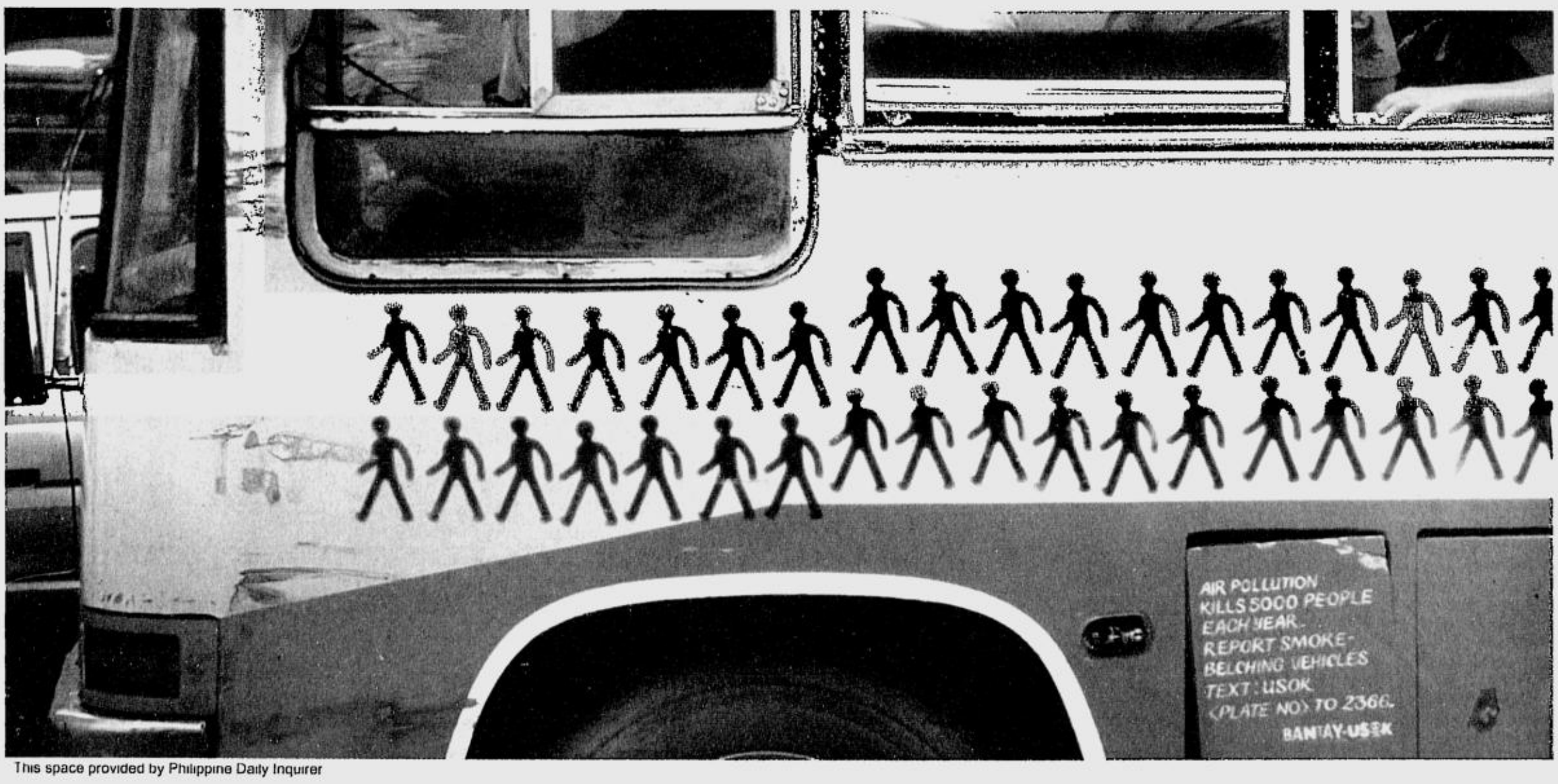
Rockets vs Jazz, Game 5, 1995 Western First Round; 11 a.m.; Solar Sports—Led by center Hakeem Olajuwon's 33 points, Houston cruises into Utah's Delta Center and captures this Game 5 win and series victory 95-91. In the losing effort, Utah Jazz power forward Karl Malone is the game high scorer with 35 points.

BASEBALL: MLB-Rockies vs Dodgers; 10 a.m. (r-2 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.); ESPN—Colorado and LA continue their NL battle.

MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Hungarian Grand Prix Highlights; 6 p.m.; Star Sports—Get an adrenaline rush watching the best moments from Budapest.

GOLF: Deutsche Bank US Championship; 4 p.m. and tomorrow at 5 a.m.; Star Sports—Witness rounds two and three from Boston.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.



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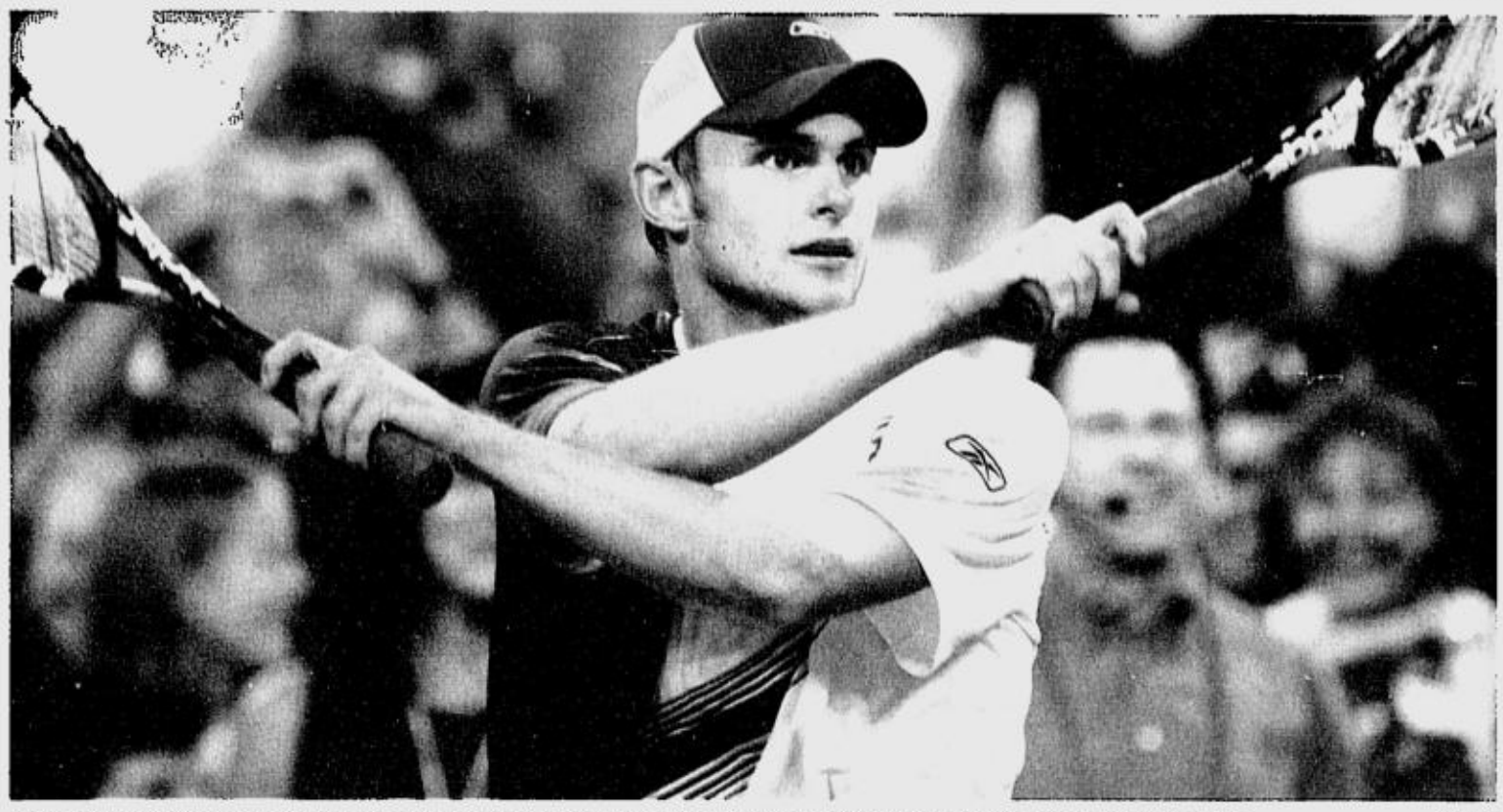

RODDICK directs the crowd with tennis racquets as they sing "Happy Birthday" to him following his win over Ljubicic. REUTERS

MAKE A WISH

Birthday b

NEW YORK—Fourth seed Andy Roddick celebrated his 21st birthday by reaching the third round of the US Open with a 6-3, 6-7, 6-3, 7-6 win over Croatia's Ivan Ljubicic.

Roddick's victory, completed in the early hours of Saturday morning, capped a daylong party for the Americans and their fans at Flushing Meadows after Lindsay Davenport, Meghann Shaughnessy and James Blake also advanced.

World number one Kim Clijsters inched toward her maiden grand slam

CLIJSTERS (left) talks with Kuznet

crown earlier on Friday but it wa end of the road for emotionally-fr ninth seed Daniela Hantuchova,

'Patience, Pete, patience'

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE CAREERS of Pete Sampras and Michael Chang are a study in contrast. Sampras is the epitome of a sports legend, Chang bordering on the ordinary.

Yet, when they retired as tennis players days apart just this week, both received unmitigated world attention. They were both placed in a pedestal.

Let's take a quick look at their records.

Sampras has won a record 14 Grand Slam titles.

Chang has won just one Grand Slam title.

Sampras has won a total of 64 singles titles worldwide.

You can count Chang's titles with your fingers.

Sampras' 14 Grand Slam titles include 7 at Wimbledon, 5 at the US Open and 2 at the Australian Open.

Chang's lone Grand Slam title is the one Sampras hasn't won: the French Open.

If golf has its majors in the Masters, US Open, British Open and PGA Championship, tennis also has its own majors in the Wimbledon, Australian Open, French Open and US Open. No sport other than golf and tennis has a collection of tournaments whose prestige is almost equal to that of the British throne, or the master's bedroom at the White House if you will.

Sampras has a 9-month son when he retired on Tuesday at the US Open, which he won last year and which proved to be his final match.

"The process is now over. I'm 100-percent retired," AP quoted Sampras as saying, his voice cracking. "I'm at peace with it. It's time to call it a career."

The 32-year-old Sampras became a father in November.

"I will never sit here and say I'm the greatest ever. I've done what I've done in the game. I've won a number of majors—I think that's kind of the answer to everything," said Sampras, wearing a black suit and gray shirt.

Chang, 31, is unmarried and his father, Joe, the chemist-turned-coach, says it's time for grandchildren. It's been 15 years on the road for Joe and his son Michael. But while Joe wants a wife for Michael, the son now wants to teach tennis in China.

Indeed, the Sampras-Chang contrast is as wide as the sky.

"I don't know if there's one best player of all time. I feel my game will match up to just about anybody. I played perfect tennis at times, in my mind," said Sampras, receiving three extended standing ovations after which fellow major champions John McEnroe, Boris Becker and Jim Courier delivered speeches.

Sampras succumbed to emotions and wiped away tears during the tribute.

Said McEnroe: "I tried to serve like you (Sampras). I couldn't do that. I tried to hit a big forehand like you. I couldn't do that. I also tried to act like Pete. Needless to say, I failed at that."

Not since Bjorn Borg, who won Wimbledon five years in a row, has tennis seen a cat as cool as Sampras. He was the exact opposite of McEnroe, whose fiery temper matched his fierceness on and off the court. Ranged against Ilie "Nasty" Nastase, the Romanian was meek-as-lamb compared to McEnroe, whose tongue is as scathing as his backhand.

Chang was a fishing partner of Sampras when they were junior opponents in California. Recalling one fishing day the two had years ago, George Vecsey of the New York Times wrote: "When young Sampras became antsy about trying to put a worm on the hook, Chang counseled him: 'You need patience. It takes patience to crack the Top 10 and patience to catch a fish. Patience, Pete, patience."

The words stuck or Pete would not have reached the pinnacle of a career that produced those record 14 Grand Slam titles.

This is not to say Chang did not practice what he preached during the next 14 seasons that he went winless in a Grand Slam event after winning the French Open in 1989. Some people just don't have the luck to be propped up by the letter P: patience. All his life, Chang, a Christian like Andre Agassi, had lived a life of patience. Consider: He was born in Hoboken, New Jersey (the birthplace of Frank Sinatra). He moved to Saint Paul, Minnesota,

PATIENCE/ A30

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oy Roddick turns back rival

ova. AFP

the lost, 6-2, 6-4, in the third round to Thai
gile Tamarine Tanasugarn.
who Belgian Clijsters, seeded one at a slam for the first time, swept aside Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova, 6-3, 6-2, to reach the fourth round.

Next up for Clijsters will be 17th seed Shaughnessy, who overcame Russian 13th seed Vera Zvonareva, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Roddick probably did not plan to spend the first moments of his birthday sweating it out on a muggy center court, but his spirited play against the hard-serving Ljubicic underlined his determination to gift himself his first career grand slam.

Ljubicic was not in a giving mood, making his American opponent work full out for the victory, forcing the match to a fourth set tie-break which Roddick finally clinched on his second match point 10-8.

It extended the hottest player on the tour's winning streak to 14 matches.

But as he was presented with a cake and the crowd broke into a rendition of "Happy Birthday," there was more relief written on Roddick's sweaty face than celebration.

Earlier in the day, third seed Davenport made a mockery of her fitness concerns with a 6-0, 6-2 victory over Hungarian Melinda Czink while the unseeded Blake ousted Armenia's Sargis Sargsian, 6-3, 6-4, 4-6, 7-6, in the men's second round.

She will next face fifth seed Amelie Mauresmo, who kept her US Open title challenge on course with a no-nonsense 6-4, 6-2 win over Russian qualifier and last year's junior champion Maria Kirilenko.

In other action, second seed Roger Federer's bid for a second consecutive grand slam gained momentum when the Wimbledon champion brushed aside Frenchman Jean-Rene Lisnard, 6-1, 6-2, 6-0, to reach the third round. The Swiss player faces Blake next.

Former runner-up Mark Philippoussis made light work of Anthony Dupuis, smashing the Frenchman, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4. *Reuters*

TANASUGARN whoops it up. REUTERS

Tamarine celebrates win twice

NEW YORK—Tamarine Tanasugarn's victory was so nice that she celebrated it twice.

The 26-year-old from Thailand matched her best Grand Slam showing here Friday, advancing to the fourth round of the US Open with a 6-2, 6-4 upset of ninth seed Daniela Hantuchova.

After fighting off the 20-year-old Slovakian's break attempt in the eighth game of the second set, Tamarine began jumping and laughing in celebration, thinking she had won the match with her crucial hold of serve.

Only moments later did Tamarine realize she had not won, but only taken a 5-3 lead.

"I am very embarrassed," Tamarine said with a smile. "I was so focused. I thought that game was 5-4. I always think my service games are very important."

Tamarine's premature celebration was received with a standing ovation by an Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd delighted to see such a joyful moment.

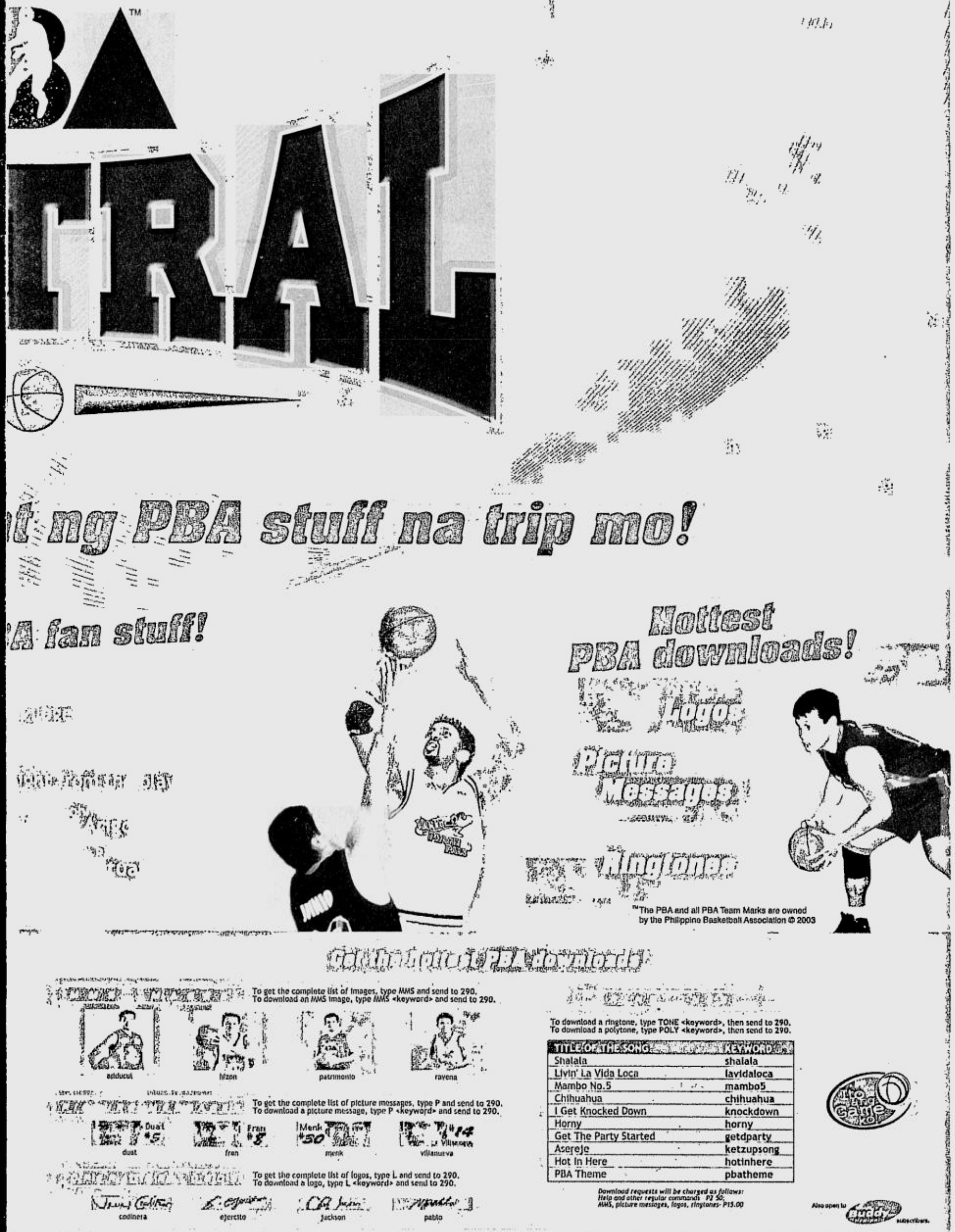
"After that, I was really laughing at myself," she said. "I was having fun on myself, saying, 'If I win this match, I'm going to jump even more.'"

Two games later, after Hantuchova netted a forehand to end matters after 72 minutes, Tamarine began leaping for joy again, the job finally complete.

"In the last game I wasn't nervous. I just go hit the balls and stay aggressive," Tamarine said. "It was a tough match. For me the most important thing was to hold my serve. I thought that game was really important." Hantuchova fought back tears after the eighth game, sensing her best chance to level had vanished, but later said she had no bad feelings about the moment.

"That happens sometimes when you are focused on your game," Hantuchova said. "It shows she was fighting so hard and very focused on her game. It was a funny situation."

Tamarine, who had never advanced past the third round in six prior trips to the Flushing Meadows hardcourts, booked a date in the round of 16 Sunday against fifth seed Amelie Mauresmo of France. *AFP*



ANSWERS From page A26

1. False (Tim's idol, Baby Dalupan, is still tops with 15 PBA coaching plums)
2. Featherweight
3. Niels Feijen (Netherlands)
4. South Korea (Daegu City)
5. Svetlana Khorkina (Russia)
6. Jon Drummond
7. 22

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WORLD TRACKFEST

Capel win boosts US sprinters

SAINT-DENIS, France—John Capel edged Darvis Patton to capture the 200 meters at the World Championships on Friday, giving American sprinters a morale-boosting 1-2 finish after they were shut out of the medals in the 100 dash.

Felix Sanchez of the Dominican Republic defended his 400-meter hurdles title, the first to do so since Ed Moses, and clocking the fastest time in the world in five years.

Dwight Phillips gave the United States its second gold medal of the day when he won the long jump, adding to his indoor title.

Behind the two US runners in the 200, Shingo Suetsugu gave Japan its first sprint medal at world championships or Olympic Games when he grabbed the bronze. The Asian champion burst into tears as he hugged his coach afterward.

Capel finished in 20.30 seconds, edging Patton by 0.01 sec onds for the gold. On a cooler night after a rain shower left the track wet, Capel led off the turn, fell behind, but recovered to beat Patton, the US champion.

DWIGHT Phillips of the US holds his country's flag as he celebrates his gold medal in the men's long jump. REUTERS

White tests positive

PARIS—Double world sprint champion Kelli White has tested positive for a stimulant that will be banned at next year's Athens Olympics, it was reported on Saturday. The American, who has taken the 100 and 200 meters titles at the World Championships and was set to win a third gold medal in the sprint relay on Saturday, tested positive for modafinil, which stimulates the nervous system and combats tiredness, according to the French sports paper l'Equipe.

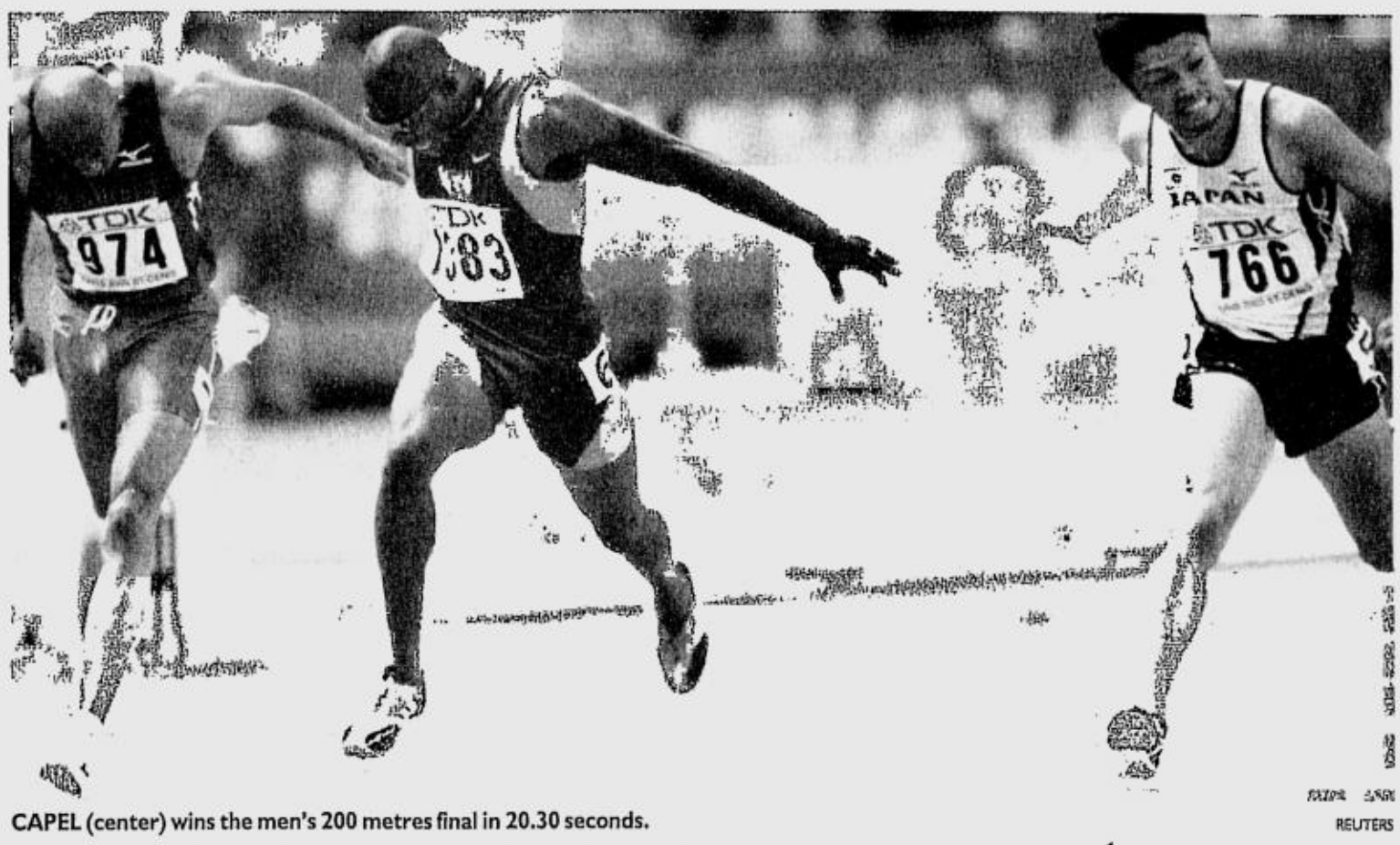
The two Americans then knelt together in prayer. US sprinters were shut out of the 100 medals here for the first time since 1995.

Patton was already looking forward to the weekend's relays.

The Americans bounced back strongly in the 200 after their humiliation in the 100.

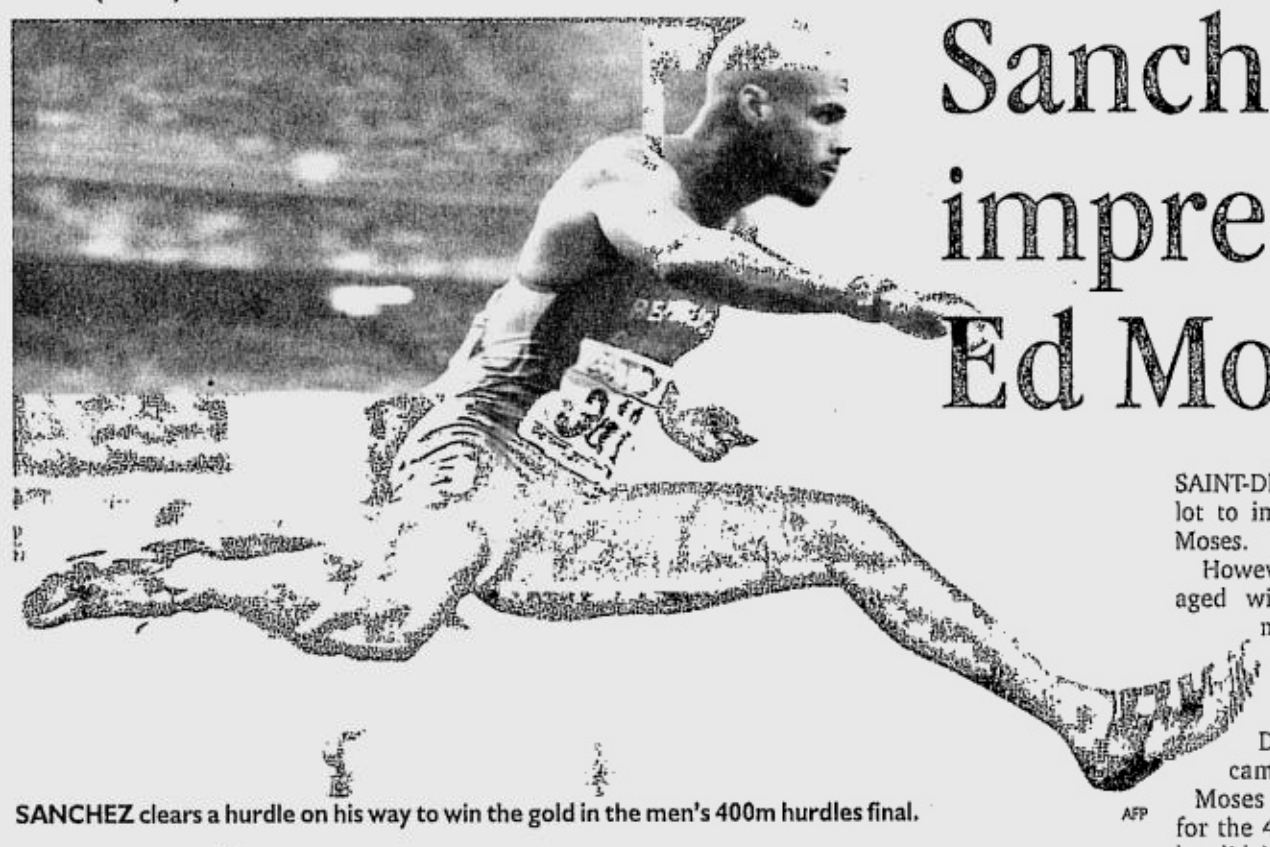
Olympic and three-time defending champion Maurice Greene failed to qualify for the 100 final following an injury and world 100 record holder Tim Montgomery finishing only fifth. Greene didn't make the US team in the 200.

"I cannot believe it, it's simply amazing," Suetsugu said. "I didn't have a good start but I am still happy with my performance. "It's a great day and my journey and hard work toward Athens (Olympics) starts here and now." *AP*



CAPEL (center) wins the men's 200 metres final in 20.30 seconds. REUTERS

Sanchez impresses Ed Moses



SANCHEZ clears a hurdle on his way to win the gold in the men's 400m hurdles final. AFP

SAINT-DENIS, France—It takes a lot to impress the great Edwin Moses.

However, Felix Sanchez managed with a stunning performance at the world championships on Friday.

The hurdler from the Dominican Republic became the first runner since Moses to retain a world title for the 400 meters hurdles and he did it in style to win praise from the finest hurdler of all time.

"He ran a very good, technically sound race, maximizing his strengths and minimizing his weaknesses," said the American double world and Olympic champion, who was watching from the Stade de France stands on a stormy night.

"He ran a very good race," added Moses, unbeaten over 122 races over 10 years during his remarkable career. "I saw a decent hurdler."

On the eve of his 26th birthday, Sanchez offered a flawless display in the technically demanding event, destroying the field to clock a season's best 47.25 seconds on a soggy track.

His time was the fastest in the world in five years and made him the seventh best performer ever, a remarkable achievement given the miserable weather.

"I'm a bit surprised with my time and really proud," Sanchez said. "I tried to run all out and not play any games. I got out fast and after the first two, three hurdles I relaxed a bit, but not too much. Everything went fine."

Reuters

Milan nips Porto, bags Euro Cup

MONTE CARLO, Monaco—Andriy Shevchenko showed he's still the man for the big occasion, scoring the deciding goal Friday as Champions League winners AC Milan beat FC Porto 1-0 to clinch the European SuperCup for the fourth time in its history.

Shevchenko, whose calmly struck spot-kick defeated Juventus last May in the Champions League final penalty shoot-out, pounced in the 10th minute of a high-tempo match at Stade Louis II stadium.

Drifting into the penalty area, Ukraine striker Shevchenko timed his jump perfectly to meet midfielder Rui Costa's pin-point cross from the right and place a firm header past Porto goalkeeper Vitor Baia.

"What can you say about a player like Shevchenko?" Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "He has proved time and again what a great player he is. He is the complete striker."

Milan's triumph means it joins Spanish giant Real Madrid in having won the most European trophies —both have 15 titles in all competitions.

"With this victory tonight, we are among the most successful teams in the world," the Milan coach said.

Porto, which won last season's UEFA Cup by defeating Glasgow Celtic 3-2, was largely dominated and could have lost by a heavier margin.

AC Milan captain Paolo Maldini holds the Super Cup in front of his team mates. REUTERS

Filippo Inzaghi, Shevchenko's strike partner, was lively throughout but missed good chances in each half.

In the 32nd minute he fired wide after Costa's first-time pass put him clear on goal.

Then, 12 minutes into the second half, the Italy international headed over from Shevchenko's excellent cross from the right.

Porto coach Jose Mourinho complained that English referee Graham Barber favored the Italians when, in his opinion, the referee overlooked a second-half foul by Milan midfielder Clarence Seedorf.

"Seedorf should have been sent off, but he wasn't because the referee decided not to show him a second yellow card," Mourinho said.

"This was an inexplicable decision. Maybe Milan is more important in soccer's hierarchy," the Porto coach said. "If this was a Portuguese player, I ask myself, 'Would he have made the same decision?'"

Portugal international Costa, who had an outstanding match, should have increased Milan's lead in the 60th minute but lifted his shot over the crossbar from six yards.

Porto exerted heavy pressure at times during the second half, but its lack of composure in front of goal meant Milan goalkeeper Dida was hardly tested.

With 20 minutes remaining, Porto substitute Edgaras Jankauskas slipped and fell over when attempting to sweep the ball in from eight yards. *AP*

MILWAUKEE Brewers Keith Osik catches the ball as Chicago Cubs center fielder Kenny Lofton scores from third base on a Ramon Martinez fly ball in the fourth inning. AP

Red Sox triumph, close in on leaders

BOSTON—Bill Mueller homered and drove in four runs to help the Boston Red Sox pound the New York Yankees 10-5 Friday in the first game of the series between the two American League East rivals.

The Red Sox trailed the Yankees by 7 1/2 games on August 20 but are now within 3 1/2 games of the division leaders.

The Yankees twice went ahead, scoring two runs in the first inning and three in the fourth. But the Red Sox, baseball's best hitting team, responded with three runs in the first and fourth to take the lead for good at 7-5.

David Ortiz and Nomar Garciaparra also homered for the Red Sox, with Garciaparra adding three hits and scoring two runs.

Mueller ended up with three hits for Boston.

Trot Nixon also had three hits for the Red Sox, who had 14 in total, giving the team at least 10 hits in nine consecutive games. Gabe Kapler added two hits and drove in a run.

All of Boston's offense came without Manny Ramirez, who missed the game with flu.

David Lowe (14-6) allowed five runs and five hits in six innings with one strikeout and three walks to claim his 14th win of the season.

Jose Contreras (4-2) lasted three innings after giving up seven runs and six hits for his first loss in six starts. Aaron Boone drove in three runs while Hideki Matsui had the other two New York RBI.

In Detroit, Bobby Higginson smacked an RBI double in the first inning and followed up with a three-run homer in the second as the Tigers beat the Chicago White Sox 8-4.

Nate Robertson (1-0) earned his first major league win after allowing three runs and nine hits in five innings. Frank Thomas and Joe Crede homered for the White Sox.

Mark Buehrle (11-13) gave up eight runs and 10 hits across five innings.

In Cleveland, Mike Bordick and Josh Phelps both clubbed two-run homers in the fifth inning to steer the Toronto Blue Jays to a 7-3 win over the Indians.

Kelvim Escobar (10-8) snapped a two-game slide by keeping the Indians to three runs and four hits in eight innings. Josh Bard staked the Indians to an early lead with a three-run homer in the second.

In Arlington, Doug Mientkiewicz had four hits, including an RBI single in the eighth inning, as the Minnesota Twins defeated the Texas Rangers, 8-5. *Reuters*

Patience . . . From page A28

because of his father's career move, then to San Diego and on to Henderson, Nevada. In retirement, Chang has retreated to Mercer Island, Washington. China, home to his ancestors, now lurks in the horizon.

Sampras and Chang, pals forever.

Sampras and Chang, paths forever distinct.

Only God can explain that.

***

FASTBREAK. Who says the fervor of patriotism is dead in this country? Soft-spoken, no-nonsense executive Bong Cruz of the Philippine Airlines did his own share of nationalism on Friday when he authored a hassle-free trip for our Philippine golf team to the Nomura Cup in Australia set Sept. 2-5. Bong ensured that all five golf sets of coach Roger Retuerto and players Jerome Delariarte, Juvic Pagunsan, Jay Bayron and Marvin Dumandan were checked in free of charge. Bong did that in response to a plea that he received just hours before the NGAP's RP Team was to board the Sydney-bound PAL flight via Melbourne. Here's a glass to Bong, a true Filipino both in spirit and in deed. May your tribe increase, Bong.

I do not know Camañero—Po

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

HORSEOWNER Alfredo Po dropped by at the PDI a few days back to air his side regarding the complaints filed against him by jockey Dennis Camañero.

Here's what Po said:

• If Camañero can prove that I ordered him to throw away the race involving Top Quest, *kanya na 'yung kabayo* (I'll give the horse to him).

• I'm still finding out who, if there's anyone, gave the order (to throw away the race) to Camañero.

• I have no intention to have Top Quest, or any of my horses, lose in a race.

• I find no reason why I should be mad at Camañero. I went to my stable last Aug. 9 to congratulate Camañero for winning aboard Top Quest.

Also, Po presented a letter by his counsel stating the following "facts as borne by the records of the Philracom investigating panel:"

• Mr. Camañero admitted that Mr. Po never ordered him, either directly or indirectly, to lose the race while aboard Top Quest last Aug. 8. In fact, Mr. Po does not know Mr. Camañero personally and, in the same manner, the latter never had a chance to meet the former.

• Mr. Po was not present during the race held on Aug. 8.

• Mr. Po did not possess a gun on Aug. 9 and much less did not point a gun at Mr. Camañero on the same date. Upon Camañero's report on that day, two police officers immediately responded and frisked Mr. Po for the alleged firearm but none was found in his person. Even Mr. Camañero's witness, Cogie Catajan, denied that Mr. Po had a gun and that he pointed it at Mr. Camañero.

• The "gun" alluded to by Mr. Camañero was, in fact, a Nokia 9210 which Mr. Po drew from his pants pocket in order to answer an incoming telephone call.

• Top Quest's groom, Ruel Dacanay, was approached by Mr. Camañero on Aug. 14 and was offered the amount of P50,000 so that he would turn against Mr. Po and testify against him in collaboration with Mr. Camañero.

***

My Silip Boy also learned about Po's denials and then asked me: "Sir, is there a horseowner who doesn't know who's riding his horse? I think it's ridiculous. Who then ordered Camañero to ride Top Quest in the first place? Did somebody bypass Mr. Po? *Nagtatanong lang po,* Sir."

In the meantime, the Philracom hearing on the alleged gun-pointing (or cellphone pointing) incident is still going on.

Chair Jimmy Dilag had earlier declared: "We'll go into the bottom of this and find out who's telling the truth."

The *bayang karerista* is watching.

***

It's indeed pleasing to see a Class E jockey like Angelito Laguinto boot home a winner.

Laguinto is one of the so-called "once-in-a-blue-moon" jockeys, those who score a win just once, or luckily maybe twice, in a racing season.

Last Thursday, Laguinto rode "*ala* Jesus Guce" as he masterfully guided Hermie Esguerra's Kagilagilalas to an impressive victory in Race 2 at the SLLP.

Howie Basilio is right in saying that Laguinto is one of the underrated jockeys around.

In fact, Laguinto used to be a former star jockey and I remember him then scoring victories atop horses like No Way and Barbi.

Laguinto said he's thankful to Esguerra for giving him a break just like what the amiable horseowner has done to Isabelo Romero Jr. and Rolando Beron, also an ex-star jockey who's now one of the exercise riders of the powerhouse Esguerra Stable.

If you'll remember, it was also Laguinto who made Esguerra's Kayang Kaya "graduate" (as a longshot) from the maiden group after so many tries. And look where Kayang Kaya is now.

The four-year-old filly saw action again yesterday in the Class 2-Division 2AB under Dominador "Rapid Fire" Borbe Jr. and was overtaken only in the stretch by top pick Midnight Lady to eventually finish a fighting second.

So will there be a Laguinto-Kayang Kaya reunion? *Abangan!*

***

E-mail One Winner at evillanueva@inquirer.com.ph or edongvilla@yahoo.com

SEMIFINALS TODAY

US cage stars learning at school of hard knocks

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—Allen Iverson tried to show up Horacio Llamas by dribbling the ball between the Mexican's legs on a fast break.

Moments later, Iverson cut along the baseline and ran smack into the lowered shoulder of Llamas, falling to the floor with a resounding thud.

No foul.

Later, a brutal battle under the boards left two American players on their backs and prompted coach Larry Brown to take two steps onto the court and scream at the referees: "How can you let that go?"

Brown, however, already knew the answer. The refs let a lot of contact go in international basketball. As Brown has often said since the US team first began practicing together earlier this month, it's almost another sport.

"This is a really different tournament. I don't know if people understand that," Canada's Steve Nash said. "It's just a butcher-fest."

Nash and Iverson are two of the players still standing, so to speak, as the Tournament of the Americas enters its final weekend.

Three berths in the Athens Olympics are at stake, and they will go to three of the four semifinalists: Canada, the United States, Argentina and Puerto Rico.

Two of those berths will be clinched Saturday night (Sunday morning in Manila) in the semifinals match-ups of Argentina-Canada and Puerto Rico-United States. The other will go to the winner of the third-place game on Sunday.

If form holds, each of those games will be physical. Very physical.

"They let you do a lot more," Iverson said. "These guys do a lot of holding and grabbing. They let you get away with a lot more than they do in an NBA game. But I think they kind of call it both ways, and that's the important thing.

"If you're going to let one team get away with murder, you need to let the other team get away with it as well."

Adjusting to the international game has been part of the learning process for several new members of the US team as they have compiled a record of 8-0 through the first two rounds.

Aside from the proclivities of the referees, the US players have had to get used to a slightly smaller ball, which tends to be rock-hard and slippery, a shorter 3-point line and the lack of a basket interference rule that allows anyone to touch the ball when it is on the rim—either to tip it in on the offensive end or knock it off on the defensive end.

"These last eight games were for positioning. Now the tournament starts on Saturday," Jason Kidd said. "We've got another game against a tough opponent in Puerto Rico again at home. Everybody's trying to qualify for the Olympics, so now it's time to get serious."

The biggest surprise thus far in the tournament has been the inconsistency of Argentina, which lost to Mexico, Venezuela and the United States. Coming off a second-place finish at last summer's world championship, Argentina has been a little too cocky against the lesser teams, but flashy and efficient against some of the better ones. *AP*

ELIAS Ayuso of Puerto Rico (left) keeps the ball away from Jason Kidd during their second round game Friday. The US won, 91-65. AFP

Alay sa Kawal racing festival ends at SLLP

THE MANILA Jockey Club Inc. (MJCI), in cooperation with the Philracom, the PCSO and the Alay sa Kawal Foundation, stages the four top money races at the close of the Alay sa Kawal racefest today at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

Among the featured events are the PCSO Maiden Stakes Race, Philracom Special Invitational Race for Class D and E Jockeys and the two Alay sa Kawal Cup Races, with a total pot of more than P1.5 million in guaranteed prizes.

"We would like to invite all horse racing aficionados to witness and patronize our exciting program of races today, particularly our featured Alay sa Kawal charity races which seek to raise funds for the benefit of the families of Filipino soldiers who died or were injured in the performance of their duties," said MJCI president and chief executive Alfonso R. Reyno Jr.

The "Alay sa Kawal" racefest is a joint undertaking of the Alay sa Kawal Foundation and the Manila Jockey Club Inc., and is principally backed by corporate sponsors Petron Corp. and the Philippine National Oil Co.

As part of the festivities, families of soldiers who died or were disabled in combat have been invited to the affair and will be given gifts and financial assistance by ASK Foundation and MJCI officials prior to the 1:30 p.m. start of today's race program.

Five track newcomers banner the rich PCSO Maiden Stakes Race, including trial race winner Sweet Conquest and maiden gallopers Regal Style, I Love This Game, Special Mission and Mark My Word.

RACING

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Desert Breeze 2. Shining Lance 3. Charm of the Wind 4. Pulitan Beauty 5. Broadway Edition

Race 2—1. Baccarat 2. Puppy Dog Tail 3. Silent Wind 4. Muro Ami

Race 3—1. Fearless Vixen 2. Ilocos Princess 3. Habagat 4. High Typhoon 5. Princess Dancer 6. Maayo Sigaw

Race 4—1. Gemstone 2. Kiwi Rose 3. Suonos

Race 5—1. Concorde 2. Queen of Gaia 3. Main Street 4. Green Buck 5. Easy Rider

Race 6—1. Sweet Conquest 2. I Love This Game 3. Regal Style

Race 7—1. Really Cool 2. Strong Lady 3. Successful Dream 4. Doña Gelay 5. Calvin's Magic

Race 8—1. Korek Ka Dyan 2. Kantayok 3. Swallow Ur Pride 4. Summit Force

Race 9—1. Lucky Strike 2. Shape of the Wind 3. Maple My Love 4. Premiere Stock 5. Pep Up

Race 1—1 Silver Story 2. Sunny Contender 3. Arriba King 4. Free Wind

Race 11—1. Divine Right 2. Red Thunder 3. Pampanga Queen 4. Golden Moment 5. Real Gem

Race 12—1. High Octane 2. Battle Hero 3. Powerhouse 4. Elusive Cushy 5. Spinning Bullet

Race 13—1. Real Tough 2. Sumasagitsit 3. Court General 4. Penthouse 5. Fortius 6. Eye of the Day.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday SPORTS
SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2003

BADMINTON OPEN

Piencenaves trips Asuncion in men's final

IAN Piencenaves won the battle of the country's top shuttlers as he outplayed Kennevic Asuncion, 15-11, 15-6, to retain his men's singles crown in the JVC Open Badminton Championships yesterday at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati.

But Kennie Asuncion prevented a shutout for the Asuncions when she captured the women's singles crown for the third straight year following an 11-4, 11-3 win over Irene Chiu.

Kennie later teamed up with former Olympian Weena Lim to beat the pair of Chiu and Paula Obanana, 15-6, 15-2, and snare the women's doubles crown.

Piencenaves matched Kennie Asuncion's feat by teaming up with Arolas Amahit in a 15-9, 12-15, 15-5 victory over the tandem of Melvin Llamas and Jaime Junio for the men's doubles crown.

Those efforts netted Piencenaves and Kennie Asuncion P25,000 each, including the P15,000 they won in the singles events of the annual championships sponsored by electronics giant JVC for the third straight year.

The taller Piencenaves, who needed three sets to wrest last year's crown from 2001 JVC champion Kennevic, put the pressure on his arch rival early, racing to a 9-3 lead before thwarting Asuncion's repeated rallies to clinch the first game.

It was practically a one-sided affair in the second game with Piencenaves simply outclassing the veteran internationalist with his winners from smashes and drop shots while scoring a couple of points from his rivals' errors.

Kennie Asuncion, mainstay of Valle Verde Country Club, was as devastating as she dominated Chiu from start to finish, needing only 19 minutes to put away the challenge of the Premier Club bet to re-stake her claim as the country's top lady shuttler.

The finals of the mixed doubles in the elite category was still being played at presstime along with the championships in the juniors 18-under category of the annual event staged by the IMG.

Meanwhile, the celebrity tournament featuring 24 of the country's TV, movie and sports personalities will be held starting at 1 p.m. while the exhibition game between Philippines and Indonesia is set at 2:30 p.m.

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SPORTSWATCH

NCA tilt at Araneta

RENOWNED cocker-breeders, including past winners of the prestigious World Slasher Cup are taking part in the opening leg of the National Cockers Association 7-Stag Derby Monday and Wednesday, Sept. 3, at the Araneta Coliseum. The star-studded affair will be hosted by the country's cockfighting luminaries led by former NCA Cocker of the Year Mario Villamor, who is staging his first big-time derby promotion at the Big Dome after a long absence; Ruel Ricafort and Jun Santiago. The entry list includes Nene Araneta of Thunderbird fame, Danding Cojuangco (Bumble Bee Balbina), and ageless James Chiongbian (King Cobra/Sarangani), among others.

Firebird meet slated

AFTER months of negotiations between concerned parties, the Firebird 7-Stag Derby will finally be held at the air-conditioned Araneta Coliseum, with both the United Cockers Association of the Philippines and National Cockers Association supporting the event. Ucap treasurer Biboy Enriquez, derby host, said his annual promotion unfolds Sept. 10 and 12. "It's a welcome development. There will only be a change in venue but Ucap's trade mark of exciting and quality fights remain," Enriquez said. Eight stagfests—three from Ucap and five from NCA—will be the basis in selecting this year's "Stagfighter of the Year" of Araneta Coliseum. Enriquez expressed gratitude to his associates from Ucap and NCA, as well as his longtime friend Jorge "Nene" Araneta, for supporting his promotion.

Beckham nearly quit

BECKHAM

LONDON— England captain David Beckham says a combination of factors made him feel so low that he seriously considered retiring from soccer after the birth of his second child Romeo last year. "I actually did discuss retiring with (wife) Victoria," the Real Madrid midfielder told the Sun newspaper on Saturday. "There were all sorts of things going on in my life at this time—Romeo had just been born, my parents were divorcing, there was the relationship with the (Manchester United) manager (Alex Ferguson) and the kidnap threats (against Victoria). "It was a serious thought of mine (retirement). I never told anyone else apart from Victoria and my agent Tony Stephens. I really seriously considered it." *Reuters*

Boost to gamecocks

ENERTONE Ready-Mixed Concentrate, one of Thunderbird Power Feeds specialty feeds for game cocks, has just been relaunched as a pre-conditioner nourishment in addition to its popularity as a maintenance provision. Product manager Dante Nacar said that a survey commissioned by the Univet-Thunderbird group among cockers and breeders who are Enertone users revealed that preparation and conditioning of their roosters for a hackfight or derby competition prove relatively easier. With its split-peas ingredient for easier consumption and digestion, Enertone has become one of the best-selling gamefowl feeds in the country today. One of Enertone's unique component is its Phytic Acid Neutralizer (PAN) which eliminates the bad effects of acid that brings illness to fighting cocks.

Irani named refs' chair

NCR Football Association (NCRFA) president Santi Elizalde appointed Darius Irani recently as chair of the NCRFA Referees committee. Irani, head coach of the Pasargad Football Club and organizer of local 'futsal' tournaments, took over from Tomas Saluria, who served for over a year and has been a leader of various referees' organizations the past 14 years. The appointment of Irani takes effect immediately as preparations for the Oct. 5 edition of the "Globe Super Cup" begin.

Fistorama aired today

SAMSUNG'S Fistorama today features an exciting 10-round bout in the bantamweight division. Joven Jorda faces Elderd Romero at 118 lbs as he tries to maintain a winning streak in the popular weekly boxing show produced by Joe Cantada Sports. Fistorama, now on its second year, will be aired today at 3 p.m. on RPN 9.

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Sunday BIZ

CEO's sense of ownership pushed him up the firm

BETOY JOHNSON

A MAN named Pigem atop a firm called Nestlé Philippines.

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

SALVADOR Pigem feels the same way about his company now as he did the first time he stepped into its halls 25 years ago.

A fresh graduate then at 23, Pigem recalls he almost instantly felt a sense of ownership for the company when he joined Sociedad Nestlé AEPA in Barcelona as project engineer.

"I never felt I work for Nestlé. I do not work for people. I work for myself with Nestlé. That's me. The day I feel that (like I am working for somebody) I quit," Pigem says.

Perhaps it was this almost fierce sense of ownership that propelled Pigem up the corporate ladder to positions he never thought he would reach.

After all, he points out, he is a technical man, a civil engineer, not a business graduate as most CEOs are expected to be.

Pigem is the new chief executive officer of Nestlé Philippines Inc. He took over the reins of the firm from Juan B. Santos, the first Filipino to head its local operations. Santos remains as chair of NPI.

NPI is one of the top 10 largest firms in the country employing some 4,000. The local operations also rank among the top 12 worldwide.

As the new head of the Nestlé conglomerate in the Philippines, Pigem has the task of laying the groundwork to achieve a 100 percent increase in its local revenue to P100 billion by 2010. Last year, sales almost reached P52 billion, the highest in Southeast Asia.

He knows this can be achieved. For Pigem, the strength of Nestlé lies in its people and its brands. Nestlé's products are number one or number two in their various categories.

These include Nescafe, Nido, Bear Brand, Nestea, Maggi, Nestlé ice cream.

There are two key areas he wants to further develop in the company—to create a major sense of ownership among the collaborators of the company; and to put consumers at the center of the decision-making process among its employees.

He says this can be done by "not only exposing people to other markets but by making people the owners of their decisions. This has to permeate the organization."

Pigem has the advantage of being familiar with the organization having been to the country twice prior to his posting as CEO.

He was in the Philippines for a short mission in 1991 and in 1996, he was made general manager of Nestlé's Ice Cream Division (the former Magnolia). He left NPI in October 1999 to head PT Nestlé Indonesia.

Coming home

Asked how it feels to be back, he quips, "How does it feel to come home?"

Born in Barcelona Spain, 52 years ago, Pigem appears to have acquired a grasp of local politics from his earlier stints in Manila.

He observes that if only the country will be run like a company where everybody has a sense of ownership for the company, the Philippines will be on a smooth road to success.

Nestlé is one of the few foreign firms that has seen the upheavals in the Philippines but has remained in the country. Nestlé products were already available in the country as far back as 1895 but it was only in January 1899 that The Nestlé and Anglo Swiss Condensed Milk Company established its first sales office in Binondo .

In 1960, Nestlé SA and San Miguel Corp. entered into a partnership that formed Nutritional Products Inc. (Nutripro). In 1962 Nutripro opened its first factory in Alabang to make Nescafe.

In 1977, Filipro Inc., the trading company and Nutripro, the manufacturing company, merged under the name Filipro. In 1986, Filipro changed to its present name as Nestlé Philippines.

In 1998, Nestlé Philippines became a wholly owned subsidiary of Nestlé SA following the latter's purchase of all of San Miguel's stake in NPI.

Pigem is a technical man who finished civil engineering from the E.T.S. Ingenieros de Caminos, considered one of the toughest engineering schools in Madrid. He used to head the Construction Unit at the Corporate Office in charge of factory construction projects.

In 1985, he worked as manufacturing manager of infant cereals in the Nestlé La Penilla Factory, and was later promoted to assistant factory manager. In 1988, he became factory manager of Nestlé's largest ice cream factory in Europe, France Glaces Findus, in Beauvais, France.

In 1992, he was assigned to Nestlé Thailand Ltd. in Bangkok for a year as Technical Manager. After two years, he moved to Nestec Ltd in Vevey as Technical Manager and Research and Development Coordinator at the Confectionery and Ice Cream Strategic Business Unit.

Admittedly a technical man, Pigem says he may lack "skills for creativity" but his attention to details gives him a clear view of the bigger picture.

To Pigem, the discipline or course of a person is not as important as his ability to see the whole and to be able to know who is the center of his gravity in the company.

In Nestlé's case, it should be the consumer. "He must not forget the whole chain."

Pigem, who hails from Barcelona, Spain, is married with three children.

Quick facts about Nestlé

- First sold products in the Philippines in 1895.
- Nestlé Philippines Inc. ranks No. 12 in Nestlé worldwide in terms of sales.
- NPI sales in 2002 reached almost P52 billion.
- Philippine sales are the highest in Southeast Asia.
- Employs 4,000 in the country.
- One of RP's top 10 largest corporations.

ATR-Kim Eng launches ALFA

ATR-Kim Eng Financial Corp., the country's largest non-bank investment firm, recently launched its newly acquired insurance arm—AsianLife Financial Assurance Corp.—vowing to be one of the country's top ten insurance companies in two years.

Formerly known as All Asia Life Assurance Corp., the company was acquired and renamed AsianLife Financial Assurance Corp. by ATR-Kim Eng Financial Corp. in March last year.

ATR-Kim Eng Financial Corp. president and chief executive officer Manuel N. Tordesillas said that prior to the takeover, All Asia Life Financial Assurance Corp., was one of the fastest growing life insurance company in the country. It is among the top 20 insurance providers in the country today.

"We expect to begin reaping the fruits of success next year and be one of the top 10 insurance companies in two years," Tordesillas vowed.

"Under the new management, we will focus our thrust on a number of niches that includes offering affordable insurance policies to more people," said Tordesillas.

He said the company is committed to consistently bring international capital and financial management technology to its business units and be the best in the country.

"With a capital base of approximately P1.7 billion and P2.4 billion in assets, we assure our customers of healthy financial state and stability. We are even confident to provide excellent customer relations and service with 17 branches and 250 sales force deployed all over the country," said Tordesillas.

As ALFA rebuilds its foundation, Tordesillas said, they are looking at reinstating old policyholders and even target to gain new policyholders.

ALFA is not just an insurance provider, but also a "friend for life" who guides and helps one in determining the best financial program from among a wide range of products and services it offers.

The company also allows one to tap into a wealth of resources and financial opportunities, as it offers services such as financial needs analysis, retirement planning, employee benefit, salary savings program, salary loans and insurance programs, and estate creation and conservation.

"ALFA offers genuine service and customized products to fit your every life insurance need and also assures to help you and your loved ones face the uncertainties of life," Tordesillas said.

"We believe in making you and your family the core of our commitment and continues to be the family you can rely on in the years ahead," he added.

ASIAN Life Financial Assurance Corp. vice chair Eusebio Tanco and president Manuel Tordesillas.

Couple's 20-year venture started with a food craving

By Joel V. Nigos

WHAT started out as a liking for a particular cuisine, ended up as a venture that has stood 20 years for a couple.

Hen Lin, the Chinese dimsum and noodle shop you see in malls has very humble beginnings.

Despite the name and the type of food it serves, Hen Lin is a 100 percent Filipino-owned venture started by Jun and Araceli Manas. Together they set up M & H Food Corp., which owns Hen Lin.

"My wife and I did it on our own. We did our homework. We studied how to cook the products that we offered until the time when we were able to develop the kind of products that is to the liking of our customers," relates Jun. "We tapped resources both here and abroad. When I travel out of the country, I find time to research on various food products."

Hen Lin opened its very first outlet in BF Homes, Parañaque. Later, its first branch in SM Supermarket in Makati began serving the public.

Thousands of dimsums later, Hen Lin now has over a hundred branches, 40 of which are franchised. The company has also covered much of Metro Manila and Luzon to as far as Dagupan in the north and Los Baños in the south.

"My wife Araceli and I are on top of the operations. My four children are also employed with the company. My second son Ernest is medical director to the company. Next to him is Francis who is in information systems and general services. Henry, who's next to him is handling production and logistics while the daughter, Selina is in charge of finance," Jun says.

But more than the number of years and the number of branches, and the figures that says Hen Lin indeed continues to grow, is the fact that it is able to help many people. And Jun believes that these are equally important as the company's bottom line.

JUN Manas

"We have employed about 600 employees and I think we've been able to share with them the blessings the company has received," he says.

The company, he adds, also takes to heart the responsibility it has with the society. Through its corporate social responsibility program, it was able to share blessings with some charity organizations, built a house for a family in Habitat for Humanity, given scholarships for children of its employees, and has institutionalized its mission to society with a donation of the part of the company's sales to the street children of Don Bosco.

Jun relates the factors contributed to the staying power of Hen Lin.

"I believe it's the way we conduct ourselves which helps us a lot. Its honest-to-goodness treatment of our customers, we don't cheat them on the quality of our food, there are no shortcuts," he says.

He adds that they also always try to introduce improvements every now and then. He specified the company's commissary where all the supplies of their outlets come from.

"We're now all mechanized at our commissary in Sucat. And we're planning to put up a bigger commissary in Laguna very soon," he says.

Jun was also proud in the fact that they have given the public the opportunity to taste siomai and the other food they served at very affordable prices.

"Our food is peculiarly soothing to the Filipino taste, which is why our customers keep on coming back," Jun says.

And to boost its food selection, Hen Lin is also now offering complete value meals which include various menus such as spareribs, spicy gizzard, pork chop, pork asado, garlic chicken, lechon macau, barbecue, among others in some of its outlets. These are on top of the several kinds of siopao, various noodles or mami, pancit canton, it currently serves.

Jun also says Hen Lin will take on opportunities as they come along.

"We're only in Luzon and Metro Manila, I think having branches in Visayas and Mindanao is inevitable. We just have to carefully plan it. We're also looking into the possibility of having outlets abroad," says Jun.

Being into franchising, Jun believes, would help them expand easily. They are not also closing the doors to companies who would want to tie up with them especially in ventures abroad.

Hen Lin has already created a market niche it has nurtured the past 20 years. It hopes to continue serving the public for decades more to cope.

Honeybee-keeping makes farmer's life sweet

From page B3

ing to them, the pollen can be developed into an antibiotic.

Mentor

Palconitin reveals that he is an affiliated faculty of UP Los Baños.

According to him, whenever he conducts a talk regarding bee culture, the university shoulders all the expenses. He has also visited and conducted seminars in Bukidnon, Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Agusan del Sur, Gingoog City, Tacloban City and Bohol.

His residence in Barangay Magcasili in this town also serves as an on-the-job training site.

Last summer, three students from the Camarines Sur State Agricultural College taking Bachelor of Science in Agriculture major in Entomology (study of insects) stayed for about two months to hunt and observe newly acquired bees as part of their requirements in school.

Ruth Dechoson, one of the students, said that during her stay, Palconitin taught her techniques in packaging, bee wax making and even on how to make the proper size and design of a bee house. Roberto Banaga Jr., on the other hand, says the worst experience was getting stung by a bee several times.

The good and bad experiences are worth it in the end, as the students are on their way to trying their hand in the bee raising business, which has good potential.

Palconitin says even he cannot meet the demand of the buyers because it continues to grow.

"I often run out of supply," he says.

Sweet success for Vizcaya's citrus farmers

By Melvin Gascon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

KASIBU, Nueva Vizcaya—After their marriage in 1975, Perfecto Sison Sr. and his wife Paz decided to leave their small farm in Kiangan, Ifugao, to try their luck and join the gold rush at an ore-rich place in this town.

The fortune they found fell way below their expectations, and they ended up as poor vegetable farmers. It was after more than two decades, however, that the couple, like other settlers in this upland community, found their true gold mine—citrus farming.

But for 12 years since migrating from Ifugao, the Sison couple had to endure the hard work on their small "uma" (cleared grassland) through "kaingin" (slash-and-burn farming). They lived on the meager income derived from planting vegetables like Baguio beans and yellow corn.

But soon after citrus farming was introduced in Malabing Valley in 1987, there was a dramatic turnaround in the lives of hundreds of Ifugao, Kalanguya and Ilocano families.

In just after 10 years, Sison now owns about 10 hectares of orchard all over Malabing Valley, most of which are planted with fruit-bearing citrus trees.

Malabing Valley is a plateau high above the Palali and Mamparang mountain ranges in eastern Nueva Vizcaya, composed of the villages of Binogawan, Capisaan, Malabing, Papaya, Tadjie and Wangal. The valley covers 18,322 hectares.

At 800 meters above sea level, the cool climate of Malabing Valley is said to be most ideal for different varieties of citrus fruits.

But this fact was previously unknown to the settlers here. So for years they were content with vegetable farming. The workload was, however, taking its toll on Sison and his fellow farmers.

The workload of vegetable farming was so heavy on us, especially on my wife. And the profit then was so small," Sison said in Ilokano.

Yet farmers remained skeptical when Alfonso Namuhje, a farming guru in the community, told them of the potentials of growing citrus fruits.

"At first, we didn't believe them. We were sort of amused because we thought citrus fruits wouldn't survive here," Sison said of the early planters of citrus fruits in the area.

But all that started to change when, in just three years, Namuhje and a few others started to reap their first citrus harvests.

"We watched them fill one crate after another with oranges, and we were in awe," says Sison.

Given the Filipinos' propensity to imitate something that makes money, it didn't take very long before others followed and started planting their farms with citrus fruits.

Citrus capital

Malabing Valley now has around 400 farmers who attend to the more than 18,200 fruit-bearing trees in about 454 ha of orchards here.

They belong to the Malabing Valley Multi-Purpose Cooperative (MVMPC), which they formed in 1989 and helped them become the prolific citrus fruit producers that they are today.

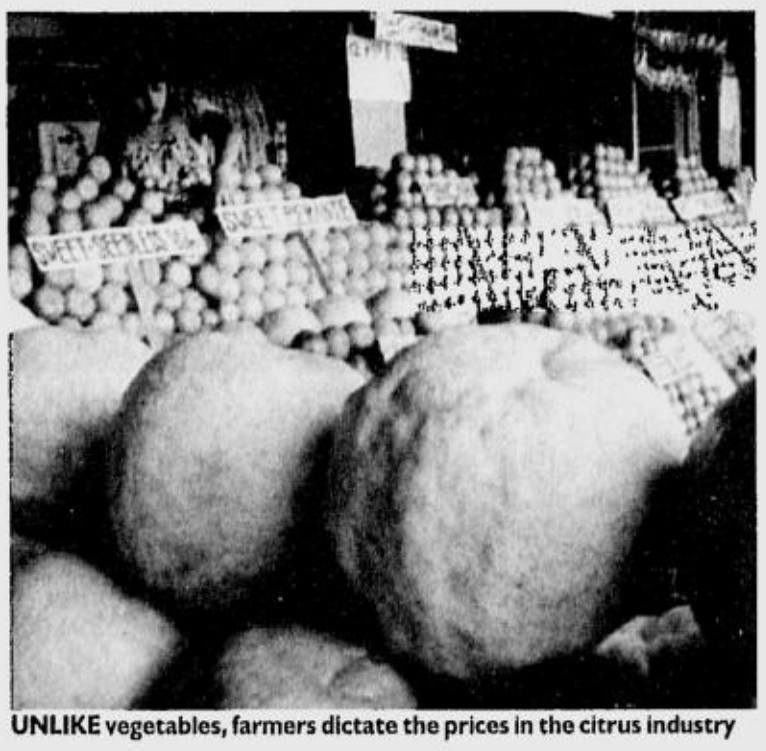
In the mid-1990s, with MVMPC lending financial and technical assistance, the citrus industry boomed beyond the farmers' expectations.

Malabing Valley produces a daily average of about six tons of different varieties of citrus fruits during the peak harvest months of September to November, and three tons daily during the off-season, making Nueva Vizcaya the biggest producer of citrus fruits in the country.

The sweet, tangy Vizcaya oranges—the Satzuma seedless and the Hamlin varieties—are the most popular, and arguably the best-tasting oranges produced in the country today.

Other varieties include Poncan, Washington Navel, Clementine, and Valencia and California oranges. There's also the succulent pomelo varieties—Red Chandler and the Davao pomelo.

A CITRUS farmer can earn a maximum of P250,000 and a maximum of P400,000. PHOTOS BY MELVIN GASCON



UNLIKE vegetables, farmers dictate the prices in the citrus industry

Most of these products are sold along the famous Vizcaya "orange alley" in Barangay Busilac in Bayombong town, which make motorists take unscheduled stops to buy these juicy oranges.

These fruits are also shipped and sold all over Luzon, primarily in the supermarkets of Baguio City and Metro Manila.

Gilbert Cumila, MVMPC board chair, says the Vizcaya oranges can rival even the varieties from Singapore, Taiwan and Australia because of their unique taste and juiciness. This has earned the province the title "citrus capital of the Philippines," he says.

According to Sison, significant changes in the lives of the villagers here are evident—from their previous cogon houses to today's well-built concrete structures. Many of the farmers here own vehicles and are equipped with farming equipment and machinery.

Sison says a season's harvest from a one-hectare orchard could produce up to 3,500 kilograms of citrus fruits. The best picks could sell as high as P33 a kg here.

With this, a farmer can earn a minimum of P250,000 and a maximum of P400,000 a year.

"In the citrus industry, unlike vegetables, it is the farmers who dictate the price. (As members of a cooperative) we can even control the outflow of our own products," says Sison, who is also president of the Malabing Valley Tribal Development Association.

"You can go to houses during the day and most likely, you won't find anybody home because they are busy in their farms. That could explain why criminality has decreased here, too," Sison says.

Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani has credited the farmers of Malabing Valley for their contribution in bringing down the poverty incidence in Nueva Vizcaya to a record low of 10.9 percent.

The MVMPC, with the help of the local government of Kasibu, the provincial government and the Department of Agriculture in Malabing Valley, hosts the annual citrus festival here.

This year, it could be a celebration of sorts after MVMPC won the national award for the best partnership with a provincial government category in the Cooperative-Local Government Unit Partnership Awards 2003 (CLPA).

The success of the MVMPC is a testament of how the citrus farmers of Malabing Valley have improved their lives.

The MVMPC has grown into one of the biggest cooperatives in the province, starting with P16,300 as initial capital about 10 years ago to about P13.2 million in total assets today, according to Cumila.

"Our goal now is for all the members of the community to equally share the benefits we get from citrus farming," he says.

Honeybee-keeping makes farmer's life sweet

By Michael B. Jaucian
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

GUINOBATAN, Albay—Rodolfo Palconitin, 62, of Barangay Magcasili in this town and the only Bicolano pioneer member of the Bee Net, an organization of people engaged in honey bee business, has proven that the honey bee can offer a sweet and healthy life.

Palconitin told the INQUIRER that he was able to comfortably meet the needs of his family and send his children to school from raising bees.

He claimed that honey bee raising is not hard since various species of honey bee abound in the Bicol Region.

Ridiculed

Palconitin says he went through good and bad experiences when he was just starting his bee keeping business. The sad moments came when his neighbors would tease and ridicule him.

He had the last laugh, however, because he went on with the bee business and soon he was producing enough honey and other byproducts to keep the money coming.

He was even able to encourage some local politicians, like Mayor John Dycoco of Libon town, and some priests to keep honeybees in their backyard.

The Apis cerena and the Stingless Bee Trigona are the common species of Asian bees usually kept by village folk either for their own household requirements or for commercial raising, says Palconitin.

These are bee species that prefer a cool atmosphere.

He says the common Asian bees could be found in the forest, near flowering plants and trees.

He says that compared to raising hogs and poultry, it does not take much effort or money to raise bees, and they are not hard to manage since they look for their own food.

Palconitin, however, says that one needs a lot of patience and perseverance to make a success out of bee farming.

First class

Palconitin says honeybees can produce three major products, which, he says, can be compared to gold bars.

Among the products derived from honeybee are honey, wax and pollen.

The honey, which is popular in the market, costs P100 per gin-bottle size.

"It is more nutritious than sugar," Palconitin claims.

He says his buyers use honey as a substitute for sugar in their coffee or milk.

The wax, which comes from the beehive, is considered as first-class wax that candle makers use, especially those from Metro Manila.

According to candle makers, finished candle products made of bee wax are of better quality because these do not melt easily and emits a pleasant scent while burning.

The bee wax is also one of the main ingredients in making cosmetics and beauty products.

Palconitin says the bee wax could be made into beauty soaps and facial creams.

Based on his own research, even local and foreign celebrities prefer to use beauty soap and facial cream made of bee wax.

Palconitin says bee wax costs P500 per kilo.

The bee pollen is the most expensive among the products at P2,500 per kilo.

The University of Philippines Los Baños and Don Mariano State University are the main buyers of the bee pollen, Palconitin said.

He says developing a market for bee products has never been a problem because Raul Barrameda of the Bicol Bee Raisers Association in Legazpi City serves as his number one buyer.

Best medicine

"Bee products are not only ingredients for beauty products but are also good as medicine," he explains.

He claims that honey is a good remedy for respiratory ailments like asthma, tuberculosis and cough.

The bee pollen is good for the prevention and cure of breast cancer.

The Propolis trigona veroi, or "kalulot" in the Bicol dialect, is another kind of bee but is still under observation by UP Los Baños professors and researchers. Accord-

HONEYBEE/ B2

No time is a bad time to sell fashion watches

By Abigail L. Ho

NO TIME is a bad time to sell fashion watches, particularly in the fashion-conscious Philippine market.

Iris Chan, vice president of The Swatch Group (Hong Kong) Ltd., is a staunch believer of this.

Not a neophyte to Manila streets, she says the Filipinos' flair for fashion and open-mindedness in accepting new styles is a key factor to the potential success of the recently launched cK watches.

Although launched in the Philippines just last week, the cK watch line could not be considered a stranger to the local watch market as it had already been here before.

First launched in 1998, Chan said cK watches gained acceptance in the Philippines but was pulled out of the market in 2000 to allow "management to focus on other markets."

She related that the Philippine watch market then was not deemed as lucrative as those of Hong Kong or Singapore. Three years later, though, management, with Chan's prodding, changed its mind.

"The Philippines is one of the key strategic markets that I should not miss. I have a very good feeling about the market," she says.

Edge over the competition

The cK watch line is targeting the 18- to 45-year-old age range.

Chan says cK watches' edge over existing competitors in the local market are the Calvin Klein brand and the fact that the watches are Swiss-made.

Not that watches made in places other than Switzerland are not good. She just points out that, in the grand scheme of things, Switzerland is still considered the home of the world's most durable and reliable watches.

Plus, cK watches are also under the Swatch umbrella, the group includes brands like Omega, Longines, Rado, Tissot and of course, Swatch.

The combination of the Calvin Klein and Swatch labels, Chan says, gives cK watches a definite edge over the competition because of their established credibility as well as their loyal following.

Apart from the two powerful names behind the cK watch line, she says the unique Calvin Klein flavor of minimalist yet sensual chic provides another marketing plus.

"Despite cK watches' minimalist designs, we don't forget the trends. We're always in the market so we know what's happening in the market, like what the latest trends are," she relates.

Despite her high position in the Swatch Group, Chan says she likes being hands on when trying to catch the latest fashion trends. When she is traveling, for example, she makes it a point to look at what kind of watches people are wearing in a particularly country.

She says this gives her an idea of which designs will click in that market and which designs have the potential to capture the people's fancy.

For the Philippine setting, she says the Filipinos' "unique personality" makes it easier for her to bring in new designs here.

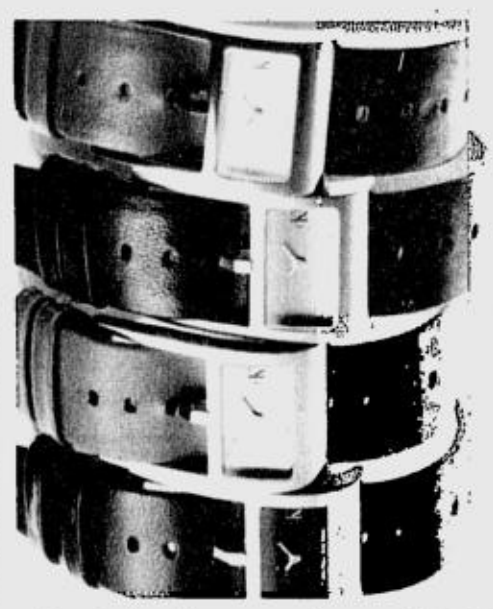
"The Filipinos have their own lifestyle. They are more open-minded so it's much easier to bring styles here. People here are very educated about design trends all over the world," she says. "They have a lot of international insight and a lot of international brands are doing well here."

Reliable partner

But to really sell well in a particular market, Chan says it is not quite enough for a brand to just have its innate winning characteristics. A good partner that will distribute and market the merchandise well is also important.

Here in the Philippines, cK watches are exclusively distributed by Belrewmond Co. through its Time Depot outlets.

The watches are already available in Time Depot stores, including new limited-edition designs Endless and



Daring. There are only around 1,000 pieces of each of these designs available all over the world.

Best-selling pieces, however, are still the Minimal and Dress styles that combine simplicity with modern chic.

"These have been best-sellers since their launch several years back," Chan notes.

The price factor

Good style and credible brands are also combined with fairly reasonable prices. Pieces from the cK watch line have a price range of $180 to $300, except for the soon-to-be-launched Diamond series.

"We are for the mass market. We're less niche than the high-end brands like Tag Heuer or Omega. We're fairly reasonably priced to help us fit into the mass segment," she explains.

With the huge number of fashionable Filipinos with a fairly strong purchasing power, Chan says the Philippines, despite being way smaller than China, is a key market for the cK watch group in Asia.

"Anytime is a good time to be in the market. It depends on how you do your job, like how we position ourselves here. I'm very confident about the Philippine market. And I know we're going to be here for a long time," she says.

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- 5 years to pay

Call: Mr. Richard Tee
0917-503 5107
046-5175123

RIZAL

332sqm 4Bdr 2Stry 2BR Taytay Rizal nr. Tropical Hut 0917-8339233 • 932-7487

NR ANTIPOLO PROPER 346sqm 3BR 1.8M 634-1212

NR ORTIGAS EXT
New French 1½Story 3BR maid's2crport w/view Lot: 150m² Hse:130m² T948-8240

OTHER AREAS

BAGUIO/TERMS 0919-8272909

TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS
Shares / Rednit Lots & units 4 sale/buy 8230193/0917-3246744

HOUSE & LOT

House & Lot w/ 15 yrs. warranty
3BR 2T&B w/ Parking, w/ maid's room
Area: 140 sq.m.
Price: 2.2 million installment

20% Down 12 months w/ no interest
80% Bal. thru Pag-ibig, In-house, Bank Financing
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Tel. 757-3804

CAVITE

Very close to SM Bacoor P1.1M email: sm4sale@yahoo.com

BAGUIO

2BR LA170m² P2M 9122304

LOT

MAKATI

Huseng Batule St between Pasong Tamo Gomez Sts 125sqm frontage 11.56M Tel# 551-8520 or 21

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P9250T/mo.
W/ existing community, gated and secure.
Complete with hi-end amenities
Avail of 10 years in-house financing, zero interest
NEAR MKTI & THE FORT
837 3033 to 34

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100has property in Lawaan, Abra de Ilog, Occ Mindoro nr Puerto Galera w/ beach-front suitable 4 resort/ranch/ agri 4 only
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Call Nick 921-5718

MANDALUYONG

300m² Kasipagan St. PRIME P6.5M neg 8230173 / 7871079 0920-8507484

MANILA

Agoncillo 460m² 8223291

PARANAQUE

Rush Sacrifice Sale 5.5T/sqm 0916-6659887 365sqm Filinvest Sucat

PASIG

VALLE VERDE 4 T634-1212

QUEZON CITY

• N. Susana 150 • T. VERDE 295 • UDMC 225M² • BANLAT 750M² 371-3996 • 0917-7957850 dbo

OTHER PROVINCIAL

1.4 HCTR BEACH PROP.
INFANTA, QUEZON
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OTHER AREAS

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CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.6M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8169849

1BR 44sqm 2.1 Neg. 8218542

1BR CONDO P700 40SQM NR AYALA MKT. 8959297 0920-8099338 RUSH

3BR 3TB 77m² 3M PsngTamo Hana 823-4168, 0919-8140038

CITYLAND PTAMO SQ. P3.2M FA80SQM 3BR 3TB 7762629

RIZAL TOWER ROCKWELL DESIGNER CONDO UNIT 297SQM, MAIDS ROOM 2 PARKING BAYS HI FLOOR FANTASTIC MAKATI VIEWS GOOD SECURITY •0917-5303865 OR 8992364•

RUSH SALE MAKATI CONDO 2.4M neg 9114705 ; 9114649

OFFICE UNITS (w/parking slots)
6F One Corporate Plaza Bldg.
845 A. Arnaiz Ave., Mkt City

UNIT	SQM	AMOUNT
601	168.43	P12.902M
602	186.53	14.288M
603	139.00	10.648M
604-6	493.79	37.825M

for more info pls. contact: Ms. Beth Raley @ T•8136515

OFFICE UNITS (W/PARKING SLOTS)
CATTLEYA CONDOMINIUM
#235 SALCEDO ST
LEGASPI VILL., MAKATI CITY

UNIT	SQM	AMOUNT
402	80.60	P5.239M
403	80.60	5.239M
409	117.00	7.605M

for more info pls. contact: Ms. Beth Raley @ T•8136515

MANILA

LEON GUINTO
NEAR LA SALLE
Bnew/3Sty/3BR/3TB/grge
P3.295M 8903461 loc 34

nr UST, Espana Tower
09163741571•09178102903

STUDIO Rm nr LaSalle Taft St Scho cmplte amnties 34sqm Lito 0917-3489347

MANDALUYONG

1BR 2BR 3BR RFO 3units left •823-4168/0919-8140038•

2BR New 2TB 64sqm 2.1M 0916-5945 18

PARANAQUE

PRESLLNG 1BR STDO DBO BANK FNCNG/PAGIBIG 09195631318•

PASIG

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ORTIGAS & nr d'FORT Condo 2-4BR 1.5-4M only 10%DP Bal thru Inhse Bnk Pgibg amenities, 09173242105

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CONDO/TWNHSE

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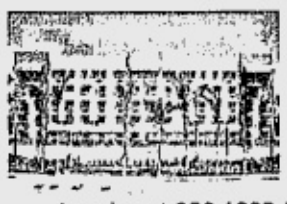
The East Ortigas Mansions Condo
P1.6M
2 BR Condo Unit w/ kitchen, dining area, living room, 1 toilet & bath.
Inquire at 656 1882 / 656 1664

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4 BR unit with individual car park area, lanai & open deck for only
P4.8M

Pag-IBIG Financing available

PASIG

VVERDE 2 60m² 2M 9122304

VVERDE 3BR 1.7M T9124323

QUEZON CITY

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2BR P1.6M 58 sqm T.Sora 0916-7179834 RUSH!!!

3BR 2TB FA115m² 9122304

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SCT CASTRO NR MORATO 3br3tb1cg 2.6M neg 6873372

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MAUSOLEUM 39m² 9122304

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

PIGGERY BULACAN W/ECC P4M 2884m² 9522109 NEG

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MANILA

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PASIG

VV1 5BR 5TB Den 55T 929-9835

QUEZON CITY

Dn. Jose-QC P20T Neg/4BR 3TB 2Car Garage 938-8961

Nova 4BR 2TB Grg P9T 929-9835

RIZAL

1BR 1TB Vista Verde Cainta T-438-4286 Chey/Jeny

3BR 2TB Md/Rm Stock Rm 2Car Grg Garden Space Brookside Hills Cainta P14T 0918-9416640

CAVITE

2BR Dasma Cvite 09166597084

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MANILA

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PASIG

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MANILA

SAMPALOC nr UST 7854088

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QUEZON CITY

2BR DTirona Proj4 421-6593

4T 2BR5468275 nr SM F'view

5 D.Tuazon cor Ilustre St P8T 9207101•0919-3652573

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78D 11th Av Cubao 4272560

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Cubao P3.5 Std Lady 9124428

STD TYPE APT SFDM, QC 373-02-08

STUDIO w/garage, telphone Call 911-5112/911-5162

RIZAL

5T 2BR6468151 F'vest Cainta

Taytay U/D w/Garage 2BR 4,500 inc.H2O 0918-7113987

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Room Nr. Ultra 688-8582

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Notice is hereby given to the public that the Stock Certificate No. 036636 issued by AYALA CORPORATION, in the name of "BPI TA FAO POBLADOR AZADA" for Ninety Six Thousand (96,000) shares in AYALA CORPORATION-Common was lost.
In case of recovery, please contact STANDARD CHARTERED BANK TRUST & INVESTMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT c/o Grace Suarez at tel. nos. 886-7888 local 2926 or 878-2926.
(PDI- Aug. 31,Sept.7 & 14, 2003)

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dti
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY
PHILIPPINES

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI BAC) is inviting interested Branch Office(s) / Subsidiary (ies) in the Philippines, of Direct Manufacturers and/or Distributors of branded computers, duly organized under Philippines, to qualify and bid for the supply, delivery and installation of computer package for the following lots:

LOT NO.		Approved Budget for the Contract
1 - Luzon	PCs, Servers and peripherals for public high schools, LGUs and DTI Offices	P 263,974,614.00
2 - Visayas	PCs, Servers and peripherals for public high schools, LGUs and DTI Offices	P 128,394,089.00
3 - Mindanao	PCs, Servers and peripherals for public high school LGUs and DTI Offices	P 167,401,297.00

The project is funded by the Government of Japan under the Non-Project Grant Assistance.

Bid documents may be obtained from Maribeth Fullon/Dexter B. Gianan, from September 3 to 15, 2003 during office hours after paying the non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) at the Office of Special Concerns (OSC), 5/F DTI Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, during regular office hours (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM).

A pre-bid conference will be held on September 15, 2003, 10:00 AM at the Conference Room, 6/F DTI Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

The submission and opening of the Eligibility Requirements, Technical and Financial proposals will be on September 22, 2003, 9:00 a.m. at the Conference Room, 6/F DTI Bldg., 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

The contract duration is for three (3) years and delivery period is one hundred twenty (120) days.

The DTI BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of its bids, and will entertain only such bid/s established to be most advantageous to the Government.

For inquiries, please contact Dir. Dita M. Maralit / Lydia R. Guevarra through tel. nos. 890-5123 and 897-1718, Fax no. 890-4816 and E-mail address DitaMaralit@dti.dti.gov.ph.

By Authority of the Secretary of Trade and Industry.

(Sgd.) ARMIN B. RAQUEL-SANTOS
Asssistant Secretary
Chair, DTI BAC
(PDI--Aug. 31 & Sept. 7, 2003)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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RIGHTS FOR SALE

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BUSINESS FOR SALE

Rush Sale:Bar & Resto Salcedo Vill. Makati 0919-4299141/8470398/8672135

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG KATARUNGAN
PANGASIWAAN SA PATALAAN NG LUPAIN
(LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY)
East Avenue cor. NIA Road
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Registration Authority (LRA) invites all interested contractors, duly registered with the Government-Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS), to participate in the public bidding for the construction of the following infrastructure projects:

Project	Location	IAC License	Contract Duration	Approved Budget for the Contract
Registry of Deeds Bldg.	Aklan	Medium "A"	4 mos.	P3,717,690.12
Registry of Deeds Bldg	Roxas City	Medium "A"	4 mos.	P3,106,433.22
Registry of Deeds Bldg	San Fernando, La Union	Medium "A"	6 mos.	P6,708,625.00
Registry of Deeds Bldg	Mambajao, Camiguin	Small "B"	4 mos.	P2,499,855.19

Interested Contractors shall be required to submit a LETTER OF INTENT for EACH PROJECT, addressed to the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee for Infrastructure Projects (BAC-Infrastructure), 5th Floor, LRA Building, East Avenue corner NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City and shall submit for registration, a certified true copy of the following documents:

a. G-EPS and DTI or SEC Registration Certificate
b. Mayor's permit and Renewal of PCAB Contractor's License as of fiscal year 2003
c. Taxpayer's Identification Number
d. Sworn statement from the prospective bidder that it is not included in the "blacklist" issued by CIAP.

Eligibility Forms can be secured from the BAC-Infrastructure Secretariat, 5th Floor, LRA Building, from **September 02 to 05, 2003**, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS FIVE HUNDRED (P500.00).

Deadline for the submission of eligibility requirements is on **September 15, 2003**. Prospective bidders shall present the original documents of all eligibility requirements for authentication purposes. Eligible parties shall be issued a complete set of Bid Documents on **September 25 to 29, 2003** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS THREE THOUSAND (P3,000.00).

The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at the LRA Multi-Purpose Hall, 5th Floor, LRA Building, on the following dates and time:

Project	Date	Time
RD-Aklan	September 30, 2003	10:00 a.m.
RD-Roxas City	September 30, 2003	1:30 p.m.
RD-San Fernando, La Union	September 30, 2003	3:30 p.m.
RD-Mambajao, Camiguin	October 01, 2003	1:30 p.m.

Sealed bids in two (2) envelopes shall be received and opened at the LRA Multi-Purpose Hall on the following dates and time:

Project	Date	Time
RD-Aklan	October 15, 2003	10:00 a.m.
RD-Roxas City	October 15, 2003	2:00 p.m.
RD-San Fernando, La Union	October 16, 2003	10:00 a.m.
RD-Mambajao, Camiguin	October 17, 2003	10:00 a.m.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formality in the bids received, and accept such offer that may be considered most advantageous to LRA. The bidder shall bear all costs in the preparation of their bids and the government shall in no case be responsible or liable for their costs regardless of the outcome of the bidding process

(Sgd.) EDILBERTO R. FELICIANO
Chairman, BAC-Infrastructure

(PDI–August 17, 24 & 31, 2003)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY

A large reputable Bank in Makati is accepting proposals to prequalify to bid for the printing of the following items:

WALL CALENDAR (50,000 pcs.)
DESK CALENDAR (15,000 pcs.)
EXECUTIVE PLANNER (2,000 pcs.)
APPOINTMENT DIARY (2,000 pcs.)
CHRISTMAS CARD (2,000 pcs.)
POCKET CALENDAR (100,000 pcs.)
GIFT WRAPPER (5,000 pcs.)

All Color Seps, Negative/Page Lay-out will be supplied to proponent:

The job will include printing of above items and related services. The Bank requires the following to be submitted together with the formal offer to prequalify:

1. Printed samples of wall calendar, desk calendar, pocket calendar, planner, diary and gift wrapper or similar items;
2. Proof that the proponent has at least five years experience in color printing;
3. Certification that proponent has worked with advertising agencies for the production of calendar and planners;
4. Company profile, track record and references from clients;
5. Proof that proponent has complete line of modern printing facilities (from pre-press to finishing);
6. Printing press should be located within Metro Manila;
7. Written conformity to the following conditions:
   – Background check especially from previous clients shall be conducted by the Bank;
   – Visit to check on equipment and other facilities; and
   – Submission of a refundable deposit of Manager's Check of at least 10% of the contract price when required.
8. Audited Financial Statement for the last two years (2001-2002);
9. Copy of the Income Tax Return for the last two years (2001-2002); and
10. Proof of Registration of business.

The Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids/offers/proposals, waive any formalities found therein and accept the bid(s) that is considered most advantageous to the Bank. The decision of the Committee is final and binding. Please address formal offer to:

The CHAIRPERSON
Committee on Corporate Gifts
P.O. Box 1996
Makati Commercial Center 1200

The Committee shall accept all submission postmarked later than September 5, 2003.

(PDI–Aug. 29 & 31, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agrarian Reform
Foreign-Assisted Projects Office
CENTRAL PROJECT OFFICE

Northern Mindanao Community Initiatives and Resources Management Project

(NMCIREMP)

INVITATION TO RESOURCE NGOs/INSTITUTIONS/ INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

The DAR/IFAD-NMCIREMP invites interested **Resource Non-Government Organizations (NGOs)/Institutions/Individual Consultants** for pre-qualification for the provision of services to project stakeholders (agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs), Indigenous people (IPs), fisherfolk, upland farmers, operational NGOs, LGUs, NCIP) in selected communities of Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Misamis Oriental and Bukidnon (Impasug-ong). The work will entail provision of technical and training services under the following components: 1) Community Institutions and Participatory Development, 2) Community Investments, 3) Natural Resources Management, 4) Support Services and Studies, 5) Support for Indigenous People, and 6) Project Management.

Interested NGOs, institutions and individual consultants with relevant experience/expertise must submit the following:

I. **NGOs/Institutions**
   a) Letter of Intent
   b) Profile indicating (complete name, contact details, area of competence, capability statement, staff complement, funding sources, operating sites, year of establishment, registration details - year, number, registering office, linkages, networks, history of working engagements with LGU, DA, DENR, NCIP and other government bodies, references, others)
   c) Rural Development Concept (2 to 3 pages)

II. **Individual Consultants**
   a) Letter of Intent
   b) Comprehensive Resume
   c) References

Where to submit:
The Project Director
NMCIREMP
c/o DAR Regional Office
3rd Floor Samping Building, South Montilla Blvd.
Butuan City

Please indicate interest for pre-qualification whether as Resource NGO, Institution or Individual Consultant. The deadline for the submission of pre-qualification documents is on **15 September 2003**. Additional details/information may be obtained from NMCIREMP office in Butuan City (Tel No. (085) 341-9061 and DAR-FAPsO M & E Division, Diliman, Quezon City (Tel. No. 927-0752/928-7031 to 39 loc. 112).

(Sgd.) **Project Director**
NMCIREMP

(PDI - Aug. 31 & Sept. 7, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

August 26, 2003

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Social Welfare and Development-Central Office (DSWD-CO) is inviting all interested parties to a public sealed bidding on the disposal and sale, BY LOT and on an "AS IS WHERE IS" basis, the following unserviceable motor vehicles and ready-to-eat-food (RTEF) processing and preservation machines:

	Article and Description	Minimum Bid
	One (1) Lot Unserviceable Motor Vehicles and Packing Machines	
1.	School Bus, 1982 Isuzu, SAS-583	P 28,700.00
2.	HSPUR, 1983 Ford Fierra, SBD-312	9,700.00
3.	Car Sedan, 1988 Nissan Sentra, SBY-282	22,000.00
4.	Pick-Up, 1987 Toyota, SEB-906	28,200.00
5.	Pick-Up, 1984 Isuzu KB, SDN-462	15,600.00
6.	Shuttle Bus, 1970 Isuzu, NXF-809	30,900.00
7.	Cargo Truck, 1987 International Harvester S-1900,SDN-452	59,400.00
8.	Passenger Bus, Hino RF, SEK-807	45,800.00
9.	Car Sedan, 1988 Nissan Sentra, SBY-292	22,000.00
10.	Filling and Sealing Machine, Toyo-Jidoki IT-8C, SN-1174	48,000.00
11.	Vacuum Packaging Machine, Shindaigo 835-50, SN-12060	32,000.00
12.	Wagon Engine, 1992 Mitsubishi Pajero (SEK-194)	450.00
13.	Bus Engine, 1985 International Harvester SR-1700 (SEE-393)	600.00
	Total Minimum Lot Bid Price	P 343,350.00

Interested bidder/s may inspect the said unserviceable properties at DSWD-CO Compound, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City during regular working days from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting September 01 to September 10, 2003.

Bid documents can be secured from the DSWD-Disposal Committee Secretariat located at the Ground Floor of the DSWD New Building, at the same address during the inspection dates.

A Bid Bond corresponding to at least 10% of the total lot bid price in the form of cash, cashier's check or manager's check shall be required and enclosed in an envelope together with the bid proposal

Submit your bid proposal not later than 4:00 p.m. of September 11, 2003 addressed to the Chairperson stated below:

The Chairperson
Disposal Committee
2nd Floor, DSWD-CO New Building
Batasan Pambansa Complex
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

Opening of bids will be on September 12, 2003 at exactly 1:00 p.m. at the DSWD Administrative Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Batasan Hills, Quezon City

The DSWD hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bid, or to waive any formality therein or to accept such bid/s that may be considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **Asst. Secretary RHODA F. YAP**
Chairperson, Disposal Committee

(PDI - Aug. 29, 30 & 31, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Third Elementary Education Project
Bids and Awards Committee

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

ESM-22-014-002
ESM-22-002/012-001
ESM-22-009-003

August 31, 2003

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC Loans (Nov 1987).

2. The Division Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders of at least Small Sub-category B.

Package 1 - Construction of One (1) Unit - Two (2) Classroom School Building and Repair/Rehabilitation of One (1) Unit - Two (2) Classroom School Building at Carayacay Elementary School and Repair/Rehabilitation of One (1) Unit - Three (3) Classroom School building at Maslog Central Elementary School at Municipality of Maslog.

Package 2 - Repair/Rehabilitation of Two (2) Unit - Six (6) Classroom School Building at Bulosao Elementary School and Maslog Elementary School at Lawaan Municipality and Repair/Rehabilitation of Three (3) Units - Seven (7) Classrooms School Building at Bacjao Elementary School, Guinmaayohan Elementary School and Santa Rosa Elementary School at Balangiga Municipality.

Package 3 - Repair/Rehabilitation of Four (4) Units - Eleven (11) Classrooms Bagong Lipunan School Building at Casuguran Elementary School, Culasi Elementary School, Salug Elementary School and Trinidad Elementary School at Guiuan Municipality.

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at DepEd Division Office of Eastern Samar with address at San Fernando St., Borongan, Eastern Samar from **August 31 - September 29, 2003** for a nonrefundable fee of One Thousand Pesos Only (Php 1,000.00) for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to Division's Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education - Division Office of Eastern Samar, San Fernando St., Borongan, Eastern Samar on or before **September 29, 2003**, 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM for package 1 & 2 respectively and **September 30, 2003**, 2:00 PM for package 3 at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

(Sgd.) **SOLEDAD B. ACIDRE, Ed. D., CESO V-SDS**
Chairperson
Division Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Aug. 31, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Early Childhood Development Project
Loan Agreement No. WB-IBRD 4301 PH

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has received a loan from the World Bank - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (WB) in financing the Early Childhood Development Project (ECDP). Part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied for eligible payments for the conduct of a research study.
2. The Department of Social Welfare and Development now invites eligible research institutions/agencies to apply for the provision of consulting services to undertake the following studies:

Title of Study	Objectives of the Study	Minimum Qualifications
a. Cost Effectiveness of Combined Deworming and Iron Supplementation vs. Iron Supplementation Alone in the Reduction of Anemia Among Grade One Pupils In ECD Areas	To determine the cost-effectiveness of a combined strategy of deworming and iron supplementation versus iron supplementation alone in reducing the prevalence among Grade One Pupils in ECD areas.	The consultancy firm must have handled projects in the area of child health, welfare and development for at least three (3) to five years.
b. Comprehensive Review of Training Activities Related to Child Health	Assess the effectiveness and the cost-effectiveness (efficiency) of the current training programs in Child Health, including all major programs existing in the three project regions, whether included under this or other projects.	The consultancy firm must have handled projects in the area of child health, welfare and development for at least three (3) to five (5) years

3. Interested research institutions may obtain further information and secure a complete set of Information to Consultants, upon presentation of a letter of intent, starting **September 1, 2003** from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat at 2nd Floor, Property and Supply Division, DSWD, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City with telephone numbers: 931-8161 & 931-8101 to 07 loc. 125. Deadline for the submission of duly notarized accomplished Information to Consultant, SEC registration, constitution and by-laws, company profile and other related documents is on **September 22, 2003**.

(Sgd.) **Asst. Sec. RHODA F. YAP**
Assistant Secretary &
Chairperson, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - Aug. 24 & 31, 2003)

Trans Co
NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
South Luzon Operation & Maintenance

August 19, 2003

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Transmission Corporation South Luzon Operation & Maintenance invites interested Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the proposed project/undertaking listed hereunder:

Contract Code/Title	Location	Duration	Budget of the Project to be bid	Source of Budget
TRANS-03-RCSAGL-EG-04, Repair of Corroded Stub Angles of Tower Nos. 195, 193, 177, 171, 162 & 147 along Gumaca-Labo 230 kv Transmission Lines	Gumaca, Quezon & Labo Camarines Norte	60 calendar days	Php 383,049.44	ICG

The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall consist of Furnishing of All Labor, Materials, Supplies, Tools, Equipment, Supervision & Other Incidentals necessary for the Repair of Corroded Stub Angles of Tower Nos. 195, 193, 177, 171 & 147 along Gumaca-Labo 230 kV Transmission Lines.

Applications for eligibility is open to Filipino contractors with the following valid License and Registration Particulars issued by PCAB. *(Application is also open to a joint venture of Filipino and foreign contractors with PCAB Special License for this project).*

License Particular	at least "Trade – General Building"
Registration Particular	at least "Medium A – Building & Industrial Plant" (Power Transmission & Distribution)

Applications for Eligibility (legal, technical and financial documents and statements) shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by NTC in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding, and shall be subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright

Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance starting August 25, 2003 up to September 11, 2003 at the Regional Contracts Management Office, NTC Biñan, Laguna, Telefax No. 520-8213 and E-mail Address: rcdames@transco.ph) upon presentation of Letter of Intent, original PCAB License and a payment of non-refundable fee of P600.00 per copy.

Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Eligibility Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before 10:00 A.M. of September 12, 2003 and shall be submitted at the office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted

NTC reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government

Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communication should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address. *(Note: This invitation was based on the latest amendments dated May 24, 2000 and July 5, 2000 of Implementing Rules and Regulations of PD 1594 & Executive Order 40)*

(Sgd.) R.D. RAMAS
Manager, Administration /
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – August 31, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

A warrant of arrest was issued by the Regional Trial Court of San Pedro, Laguna **CRIMINAL CASE NO. 12508-B** against **RICA WAGAN AGUILAR** whose picture appears here.

Should you have any information regarding the whereabouts of Rica Wagan Aguilar, please contact **Atty. Federico A. Bellosillo, Jr. thru cellphone number 0917-6971963 or Mr. Nestor O. Miranda (049) 531-3501 or (049) 243-5449.**

A reward will be given for any information that will lead to her arrest.

(PDI – August 31, 2003)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax 633-93-42
Direct Line 631-06-40
Trunk Line 632-13-01 locals 2007/222

INVITATION TO REBID

The Department of Education through the Health and Nutrition Center is inviting all printers to apply for eligibility and to rebid for the printing and delivery of the following packages:

a. Package 1 - 200,000 copies International Growth Tables and Charts with a budget of P2,000,000.00
b. Package 2 - 1,700,000 sheets of Individual Health Cards with a budget of P2,250,000.00

All interested printers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) starting **September 1-12, 2003** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at *http://www.deped.gov.ph.*

A pre-bid conference will be held on **September 12, 2003**, 10:00 A.M. at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. 1, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on **September 26, 2003** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and make no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI – Aug. 31 & Sept. 7, 2003)

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St. Luke's College of Medicine William H. Quasha Memorial

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2004-2005

Applicants for First Year are now being accepted. Deadline for Submission of Application forms and Certified Xeroxed Copies of Entrance Credentials is on December 12, 2003. Entrance Exam will be on January 18, 2004.

Entrance Scholarships are available to deserving students. For more Information, write, call or email inquiry to:

THE REGISTRAR
St. Luke's College of Medicine William H. Quasha Memorial
Sta. Ignaciana St., Cathedral Heights, Quezon City
Tel. No. 723-0101 loc. 3808 or
Email registrar_slcm@stluke.com.ph

National Steel Corporation

NOTICE TO ALL SEPARATED/UNPAID NSC EMPLOYEES

The NSC Liquidator has authorized the partial payment of your separation pay starting September 4, 2003.

- To all Manila based employees, please claim your partial separation pay at Unit 2701, 88 Corporate Center Building, 141 Sedeno corner Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City.
- To all Iligan based employees, please claim your partial separation pay at the Lobby of Admin II Building, National Steel Corporation Plant, Suarez, Iligan City.

Note:
CHECKS SHOULD BE CLAIMED BY THE EMPLOYEE IN PERSON UPON PRESENTATION OF VALID IDENTIFICATION. WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION, SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY ETC. WILL NOT BE HONORED.

For any inquiries and questions, please call Tel. No. (02) 752-4495 to 98, Makati City or Tel. No. (063) 221-3758, Iligan City.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor
Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
Technical Education and Skills Development Project
TESDA Complex, Fort Bonifacio, East Service Road
South Superhighway, Taguig, Metro Manila

TESDA

INVITATION FOR BIDS

August 31, 2003
ADB Loan No. 1750 PHI
OPEC Loan No. 841 P

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) co-financed with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development towards the cost of the Technical Education and Skills Development Project (TESDP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for New Construction/Refurbishment/Completion/Extension of the following 21 Centers of Technical Excellence (CENTEXes):

Institution Per Region	Location
Region I	
1. Marcos Agro-Industrial School	Bgy. Lydia, Marcos, Ilocos Norte
Region II	
2. Aparri School of Arts and Trades	Maura, Aparri, Cagayan
3. Southern Isabela College of Arts and Trades	Calaocan, Santiago City, Isabela
Region III	
4. Regional Training Center	Guiguinto, Bulacan
Region IV-A	
5. Jacobo J. Gonzales Memorial School of Arts and Trades	San Antonio, Biñan, Laguna
Region IV-B	
6. Puerto Princesa School of Arts and Trades	Puerto Princesa City, Palawan
7. Alcantara National Trade School	Alcantara, Romblon
Region V	
8. San Francisco Institute of Science and Technology	San Francisco, Malilipot, Albay
Region VI	
9. Passi Trade School	Brgy. Sablogon, Passi, Iloilo
10. Dumalag Vocational Technical School	Dumalag, Capiz
Region VII	
11. Regional Training Center	Arch. Reyes Avenue, Banilad, Cebu
Region VIII	
12. Balicuatro College of Arts and Trades	Allen, Northern Samar
Region IX	
13. Dipolog School of Fisheries	Olingan, Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte
14. Kabasalan National Vocational School	Kabasalan, Zamboanga Sibugay
Region X	
15. Oroquieta Agro-Industrial School	Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental
16. Cagayan de Oro (Bugo) School of Arts and Trades	Bugo, Cagayan de Oro, Misamis Oriental
17. Salvador Trade School	Salvador, Lanao del Norte
Region XII	
18. General Santos School of Arts and Trades	Tiongco St., Gen. Santos City, South Cotabato
NCR	
19. Marikina Institute of Science and Technology	Oriole St., Marikina City
20. Quezon City Lingkod Bayan Skills Development Center	Fairview, Quezon City
CAR	
21. Baguio City School of Arts and Trades	Upper Session Road, Baguio City

2. Bidding is open to all bidders from source countries of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
3. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the New Construction/Refurbishment/Completion/Extension of the CENTEXes ("the Works") in the aforesaid institutions.
4. Bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect and acquire the bidding documents, beginning **September 1, 2003** at the **Office of the Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC)**, between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm from Monday to Friday, at the following TESDA Regional Offices:

Region	Location/Mailing Address	Facsimile No.	Telephone No.
I	Catbangen San Fernando, La Union	(72) 700-0613	(72) 888-3966/67
II	Carig, Tuguegarao, Cagayan	(78) 846-7142/ 846-8201	(78) 846-7135/ 844-1219/ 4224
III	Brgy. Malmpis, San Fernando, Pampanga	(45) 961-5334	(45) 961-2760
IV-A	TESDA Complex, East Service Road Taguig, Metro Manila	887-5781	893-1972
IV-B	TESDA Complex, East Service Road Taguig, Metro Manila	888-5753	818-7729
V	Rawis, Legaspi City	(52) 820-5323: TeleFax	(52) 820-5325
VI	Zamora St., Iloilo City	(33) 335-0860: TeleFax	(33) 336-2618/ 9706/ 1853/ 337-8685
VII	Archbishop Reyes Ave., Banilad, Cebu City	(32) 231-1595	(32) 232-2921/ 231-6718/ 412-7465
VIII	Abucay, Tacloban City	(53) 325-9375: PT&T	(953) 321-4365/ 325-7821: TeleFax
IX	San Roque, Zamboanga City	(62) 991-3229	(62) 991-3229: TeleFax
X	Jupiter St., Macasandig, Cagayan de Oro City	(8822) 721-943	(88) 857-1665
XII	LTP Compound, Cotabato City	(64) 421-1861	(64) 421-1095
NCR	TESDA Complex, East Service Road, Taguig, Metro Manila	815-3343: TeleFax	815-3343; TeleFax
CAR	Km. 247 Magsaysay Drive, Loakan Road, Baguio City	(74) 447-2559	(74) 447-3487

5. A complete set of bidding documents per CENTEX may be purchased by interested eligible bidders on submission of a written application to the concerned office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) per bid document at the Regional Cashier's Office.
6. The RBAC's shall conduct their respective **Pre-Bid Conference** at **10:00 am of September 15, 2003**, during which all clarifications related to the bidding shall be discussed. Bidders' representatives are invited to participate in the said conference.
7. All bids must be accompanied by a security of 1 00% of the total bid price, and must be delivered at the concerned **Office of the RBAC** at or before **10:00 a.m. on October 1, 2003.** Bids will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

(Sgd.) ALCESTIS M. GUIANG
Director General

(PDI–Aug. 31 & Sept. 7, 2003)

INTERNATIONAL OIL FACTORY
MANUFACTURERS OF

BAGUIO OIL

is in need of distributors for the following areas in the Bicol Region:

Area I : Camarines Norte
Camarines Sur

Area II : Albay
Sorsogon
Catanduanes
Masbate
and Surrounding Islands

The distributors we are looking for should have an existing network in the above-mentioned areas.

Interested parties should submit their existing network of operations, manpower, logistics and warehousing facilities to:

The Sales Director
No. 19 F. Manalo Street,
San Juan, Metro Manila

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY

A large reputable Bank in Makati is accepting proposals to prequalify to bid for the printing of the following items:

Multi-Purpose Bags (15,000 pcs.)
T-Shirts (15,000 pcs.)
Caps (10,000 pcs.)
Umbrella (3,000 pcs.)

The job will include production of above items and related services. The Bank requires the following to be submitted together with the formal offer to prequalify:

1. Proof that proponent is a bonafide manufacturer of said items. The Bank will not entertain proposals from traders.
2. Track record and references from clients.
3. Written conformity to the following conditions:
   - Background check specially from previous clients shall be conducted by the Bank;
   - Visit to check on equipment and other facilities;
   - Submission of a refundable deposit of Manager's Check of at least P100,000 when required.
4. Audited Financial Statement for the last 2 years (2001/2002).
5. Copy of Income Tax Return for the last 2 years (2001/2002).
6. Proof of registration of business name.

Please address formal offer to The Chairperson, Committee on Corporate Gifts, P.O. Box 1996, Makati Commercial Center 1200. The Committee shall accept all submissions postmarked not later than September 5, 2003.

(PDI–Aug. 29 & 31, 2003)

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TENDER

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ACQUISITION OF 100% OF THE SHAREHOLDING IN A PALM OIL MILL FOR SALE BY TENDER

Tenders Due Noon, Friday 12 September 2003

BACKGROUND
The company for sale is Kenram Industrial & Development Inc ('KIDI'). The mill, which produces crude palm oil (CPO), palm kernel oil (PKO) and palm kernel cake (PKC), started in 1972 at a capacity of 4 tons of FFB (Fresh Fruit Bunch) per hour using 2 hydraulic presses. In 1975 it was upgraded to 10 tons per hour using 1 screw press. In 1979 the mill was upgraded to 20 tons per hour, its current capacity. The maximum design capacity is 24 tons per hour. The majority of the mill plant is Stork, manufactured in Amsterdam. The present owners have decided at Board level to sell 100% of the shareholding in the mill.

PRODUCTS AND CAPACITIES
The Crude Palm Oil (CPO) Output is 3.6 tons per hour at 18% Oil Extraction Ratio (OER). Kernel Output is 0.8 - 1.0 MT tons of kernel per hour at 4-5% Palm Kernel Extraction Ratio (PKER). The Palm Kernel Crushing Plant Capacity is 1.35 MT tons of kernel at full capacity. The Palm Kernel Oil Output is 0.54 MT of Palm Kernel Oil (PKO) per hour at 40% PKER and full capacity. The Palm Kernel Cake Output is 0.74 MT tons of Palm Kernel Cake (PKC) per hour at 55% Palm Kernel Cake Extraction Ratio (PKCER) at full capacity.

There has been numerous upgrading and new plant installation since 1990. A complete list is available on request.

Located:	Isulan, Sultan Kudarat (near General Santos), Mindanao, Philippines
Viewing:	Strictly by appointment only
Tender Due Date:	Noon, Friday 12 September 2003. Full set of Tender Documents available on request.
Buyers Premium:	5% of the sale price.

HENRY BUTCHER
Goindustry INDUSTRIAL ASSET DISPOSAL & VALUATION

HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES INC.
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E-mail:manila@henrybutcher.com
Website: www.henrybutcher.com/www.goindustry.com

FOR SALE

Type	:	Passenger / RoRo
LOA	:	64.44 M
Breadth	:	13.00 M
Depth	:	04.60 M
Gross Tonnage	:	1,200 T
Engine	:	HANSHIN 2,100 PS X 2
Auxiliary Eng.	:	KUBOTA X 2 sets
RAMP	:	Fore & Aft
Pass. Capacity	:	450
Cargo Capacity	:	35 cars
Speed	:	15.5 – 17 knots
Contact person	:	LJ ROSALES
	:	(02) 724-3034

- Equipped with complete safety & navigational equipment
- Inspection anytime by appointment
- Vessel presently in operation

FOR SALE

Type of ship	:	Passenger / RoRo
LOA	:	53.40 M
Breadth	:	13.50 M
Depth	:	04.00 M
Gross Tonnage	:	1,101.47 T
Engine	:	NIIGATA 1,200 PS X 2
Auxiliary Eng.	:	KUBOTA X 2
RAMP	:	Fore & Aft
Pass. Capacity	:	327
Cargo Capacity	:	40 cars
Contact person	:	LJ ROSALES
	:	(02) 724-3034

- Equipped with complete safety & navigational equipment
- Inspection anytime by appointment
- Vessel presently in operation

FOR SALE / LEASE

Type	:	Oil Collecting Ship / Tug
LOA	:	24.51 M
Breadth	:	08.00 M
Depth	:	03.40 M
Gross Tonnage	:	151.67 T
Engine	:	YANMAR X 2 sets
Auxiliary Eng.	:	YANMAR X 2 sets
Propulsion	:	CPP (HbSc2)
Contact person	:	LJ ROSALES
	:	(02) 724-3034

- Equipped with fire fighting & complete navigational equipment
- Inspection anytime by appointment
- Price subject to negotiation

FOR SALE

Type of ship	:	Passenger / RoRo
LOA	:	26.75 M
Breadth	:	07.00 M
Depth	:	02.60 M
Gross Tonnage	:	177.97 T
Engine	:	KUBOTA 550 PS
Auxiliary Eng.	:	KUBOTA X 2
Ramp	:	Equipped
Pass. Capacity	:	120
Cargo capacity	:	12 cars
Contact person	:	LJ ROSALES
	:	(02) 724-3034

- Equipped ME remote control & complete navigational equipment
- Inspection anytime by appointment
- Vessel presently in operation

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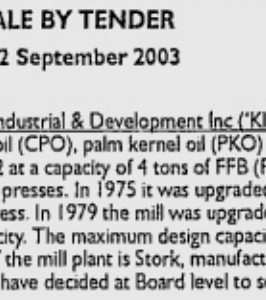

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(PDI - Aug 31, 2003)

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OBITUARIES

"We walk by faith not by sight ... confident and well-pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord."
Corinthians 5:7-8

ANGELES AGBAY MAGTIBAY

Of San Juan Batangas; Malate, Manila;
and S.A.V. Makati
Peacefully joined our Lord on
August 28, 2003 at the age of 72.

Her loving husband **REYNALDO**; children **TESS** and **RUBEN**; **CHAT** and **NOEL**; **RONNIE** and **MYLA**; **BETH** and **BENNIE**; **ALEX** and **MARGIE**; **FREDO** and **AGNES**; together with brother and sisters **LOLITA** and **GEORGE**; **FIDEL** and **NELIA**; **BETTY** and **GEORGE**; **MERING** and **AFIN**; grandchildren **RUTER**, **RUEL** and **RUNIEV**; **MARK (†)**, **TIN** and **CHARLENE**, **DANICA**, **MAYCO** and **BRENT**; **BJ** and **SHARMAINE**, **ALEXIS MARGARET**; **MART**, **SHEILA** and **MICHELLE**; relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Q.C. and will be transferred to San Juan, Batangas, Tuesday, September 2, at 7 am.

Interment will follow after 2 pm Mass on September 6.

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die." John 11:25-26

Fiscal Liberato "Leby" Bausanta Barrameda

(December 20, 1924 – August 18, 2003)
Peacefully Returned to the FATHER on Monday, August 18, 2003 at West Jefferson Medical Center, Marrero, Louisiana, USA.

His loving wife, **Loly**; children **Alex & Edith, Bendette & Bobby, Cyn** and **Day**; grandchildren **Martin, Justin, Chin-Chin, Keziah, Maxine, Keenan & Wackie**; in-laws, relatives, colleagues, friends & students request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body will be flown back to Manila on September 3, 2003 at 6:00 AM and will lie at Funeraria Paz, Sucat, inside Manila Memorial Park.
Interment will be on Sunday, September 7, 2003 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City after the 2:00 P.M. Mass

Message of Thanks

For visiting us and being with us in our time of sorrows...
For praying with us and for us...
For the Mass cards and messages of sympathy and condolence...
For the beautiful flowers to express compassion...
For joining us in our nightly vigils...
For attending the Masses and funeral rites...
For thinking of us in our hour of grief...
For all that you have done to console our hearts...

Our sincerest gratitude
From the family of the late

Jose T. Conejero (Chichong)

Wife: **Teresita (Pochay)**; Children: **Dodi, Teng, Ela, Edu, Dindo, Cheche**; Children in-law, Grandchildren

LUZ VALDES CUNANAN

Peacefully joined her Creator
on August 24, 2003 at the age of 86.

Her loving children **George** and **Maricel**, **Betts** and **Eddie**, **Evelyn**, **Rene**; her sister **Carmen**; her brother **Danding**; her grandchildren **Margarita**, **Vincent**, **Eddie** and **Nadia**, **John**, **Katrina** and **Larry**, **Bea**, **Nikki** and **Inez**; and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla del Señor, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 3, 2003 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

JOSE G. TAN KAPOE SR.

June 26, 1911 – Aug. 26, 2003

His wife **Concepcion Nokeng Tan** (deceased); children **Ben & Lucy, Flora & Lorenzo, Minda & Benito, Imelda, Marita & George, Rodolfo & Juliet, Jose Jr. & Mely, Mike & Levi, Jan, Fortune & Kelly**; grandchildren, great grandchildren and relatives request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the residence of Jose Tan Jr. in Rizal Ave. Bay, Laguna.

Interment will be today, August 31, 2003 after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at St. Agustine Church, Bay, Laguna.

The Family of the late

EARL KNOWLES WILKINSON

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and condolence, visited and kept vigil in our hour of sorrow, attended funeral rites, and in many ways, comforted us in our moment of grief.

May God Bless You All.

MESSAGE OF THANKS
We, the family and relatives of the late

Dante Yu Chua

of Pitogo, Quezon

who joined his Creator on August 24, 2003 sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attend the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

We design
OBITUARIES
for free.

FELICIANO B. FONTELERA

Passed away peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on the 29th of August 2003 at the age of 88.

A loving husband to **MARGARITA**,

A beloved father to daughters **SCARLET, LINDA** and **IMEE**,

A caring Lolo to grandchildren **JOE & JULIE, KEIV & JEANNIE, ROSA** and great grandchild **KRYSTAH**.

We, his family and all his relatives and friends request those whose lives have been touched by our beloved *"CIANING"* to pray for the repose of his soul as he is born into eternal life.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:8

The Lord is my Shepherd; I have everything I want... Even if I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid, Lord, for you are with me... You welcome me as an honored guest and fill my cup to the brim.:"
Psalm 23:1,4-5

MA. ANGELA JALANDONI SUIZA
"Angelet"

Peacefully joined our Creator on August 28, 2003 at the age of 48.

Her husband **Tony**; children **Annabee, Ria, Carla, Pia**; mother **Elena Jalandoni**; mother-in-law **Mama Ebeng Suiza**; the **Jalandoni** family, **Max** and **Nadine Tiglao, Jojo** and **Koi Stuart, Ana** and **Frank Joson, Sony, Toto, Mike** and **Maridel Pinto, Lolly** and **Ferdie Abastillas, Paul** and **Malen Sto. Domingo**; the **Suiza** family, **Josie, Eddie, Zeny** and **Roger Mina, Norma** and **Benny Figueroa**, nephews and nieces especially **Julie Barcelon** requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at St. Jerome and Sta. Susana Church, Alabang Town Center, Alabang, Muntinlupa.

Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park on Tuesday, September 2, 2003, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Jerome and Sta. Susana Church.

In lieu of flowers, donation to the Bukas Loob sa Diyos Foundation will be appreciated.

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So lovingly remembered,
So dearly missed.

On the 25th Death Anniversary of

DR. AGNES CECILIA U. RAMOS-AGUAS

UST Medicine Class 1976
(March 18, 1952 - August 31, 1978)

Masses will be celebrated at the following churches;

San Isidro Labrador Parish *Liciada, Bustos, Bulacan*	6:00 AM
Immaculate Conception Chapel *Baliuag, Bulacan*	7:00 AM
Our Lady of EDSA Shrine *EDSA, Quezon City*	6:30 AM
St. Joseph's Parish Church *Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City*	12:30 PM
Lourdes Sur East Parish Church *Angeles City, Pampanga*	9:00 AM
St. Maria Goretti Roman Catholic Church *Toronto, Ontario, Canada*	8:00 AM
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Church *Seven Hills, NWS, Australia*	9:30 AM

Her family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to offer a prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."

2 Corinthians 5:4-5

Our Beloved

VICTORINO P. ALEJANDRO, SR.

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on August 26, 2003 at the age of 84.

His loving wife **Arcadia Del Rosario**; children **Pito & Ollie Bal, Danny & Linda Mila, Rosy & Mario (†) Yatco, Vic Jr. & Nida, Rolly & Lita, Berting & Divine, Romy & Linda**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at family residence in Calaba, San Isidro, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be on September 3, 2003, Wednesday, at Calaba Public Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Calaba Holy Rosary Parish Church.

AZUCENA 'CHUCHI' ANGARA-SORIANO

July 19, 1939 – August 26, 2003

Peacefully joined our Creator on August 26, 2003 at the age of 64 in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

Her beloved husband **†Rudy**; children **Jun-Jun, Bubot, †Picio & Vida**; daughters-in-law **Zen-Zen & Len-Len**; grandchildren **Rommel, Pia & Danica**; sisters & brothers **Corazon, Violeta, Ponciano, Jazmin, Lirio, Francisco & Zinnia.**

Her wake will be on Monday and Tuesday with Mass at 8:00 pm at the St. Francis of Assisi Chapel, La Colina Subd., Mambugan, Antipolo City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 3, 2003 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"Only goodness and love will pursue me all the days of my life, I will dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come." Psalm 23:6

ERIBERTO I. ICAMINA

"A dear husband and loving father"
1993 PICPA PRESIDENT KSA CHAPTER

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 8, 2003 at the age of 59

He is survived by his loving wife **TINA**; children **CECIL, CYNTHIA, MINA & ENTENG DEL ROSARIO, MANNY & BJ ICAMINA, RUTH & FRANCIS**; grandchildren **LOUISE, ANDY, REHD & IAN**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 3, 2003 at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Baesa, Quezon City.

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die." John 11:25-26

Bibiano C. Salvatierra

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 29, 2003.

His loving family, other relatives and friends request the readers to pray for his eternal repose and happiness of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel 2-B, Nacional Memorial Homes, Araneta Ave., Q.C.

Interment will be on September 3, 2003 at Manila North Cemetery.

"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..." **Psalm 21:15**

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Third Elementary Education Project
Bids and Awards Committee
Leyte Division

Invitation for Bids
IFB No. LYT - 06 - 005-0150

AUG. 31, 2003

To: **ALL ELIGIBLE CONTRACTORS**

1. The Government of the Philippines received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (hereafter referred to as JBIC) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP), and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurements under JBIC Loans (Nov. 1987) and IDA Credits.
2. The Division Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of Leyte Division and its implementing partner, Department of Education ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Construction of One (1) unit - Six (6) Classroom Two Storey TEEP School Building at Albuera North Central School, Albuera, Leyte. Interested local contractors should be accredited by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and must be at least "Medium Sub-Category A". Interested foreign contractors must submit evidence, in the English Language, to show that they are duly established and reputable contractors in their home country.
3. Bidding documents may be purchased at DepEd Leyte Division, TEEP SBP Office with the address at Leyte Division Office, Government Center, Candahug, Palo, Leyte, from **August 31, 2003 - September 29, 2003** for a nonrefundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos only (Php 2,000.00) for each set. A Pre-bid conference will be held at the same address on **September 12, 2003** at 9:00 o'clock AM. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to Division's bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education - Division Office of Leyte at Government Center, Candahug, Palo, Leyte on or before 10:00 AM on **Sept. 29, 2003** at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

(Sgd.) AURORA AQUINO-VILLARENTE, CESO VI
Chairperson
Division Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Aug. 31, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Building 1, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue,
Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003
Tel. Nos. 743-8301 locals 1125, 1132,
Fax (632) 743-1829, 743-1786; Direct 711-9501
osec@doh.gov.ph

RENHONO SIGLA
Health anguna'

CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARD COMMITTEE (COBAC)
INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY/ELIGIBILITY SCREENING AND TO BID

The Department of Health thru the Central Office and Awards Committee (COBAC) is inviting bids from accredited contractors of Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) with minimum license category "B" and registration of "Medium A" for Building and Industrial Plant for the project:

1. Repair / Renovation of Building No. 4, DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.
2. Repair / Renovation of Budget Office, GF, Bldg. No. 2, DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila
3. Repair / Renovation of Building No. 2 (2F Ceiling and Roofing), DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila
4. Repair / Renovation of Building No. 13, DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, manila

The dates to be followed are:

	Schedule
1. Submission of Letter of Intent, PCAB license and Registration (Bring original copies of Contractor's License)	September 1, & 2, 2003
2. Submission of duly accomplished Eligibility documents	September 8, 2003
3. Posting of eligible contractors	September 15, 2003
4. Issuance of Bid/Tender Documents	September 18 & 19, 2003
5. Pre-bid Conference	10:00 AM, September 22, 2003
6. Submission of Bids (Deadline)	10:00 AM, October 10, 2003
7. Opening of Bids	10:00 AM, October 10, 2003

All of the above activities shall be held at the HHRDB Conference Room, 3F, Building No. 12, DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

The complete set of bid documents may be purchased by the interested eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) ONLY.

DOH-COBAC reserve the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by DOH-COBAC is the most advantageous to the Government.

DOH-COBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

The Approved Budget Cost will be announced during the pre-bid conference.

(Sgd.) USEC. ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Chairperson, COBAC

(PDI – August 24 & 31, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

ABNER VILLA
No. 99-B Sta. Isabel Subd.,
Sumbag, Jaro, Iloilo City
WARRANT OF ARREST
Issued RTC Branch 224
Quezon City
CRIM. CASE NO. Q-00-96713
Nature of Case: ESTAFA

MICHAEL E. CRUZ
No. 35 Sta. Maria Compound,
Ampid, San Mateo, Rizal
WARRANT OF ARREST
Issued RTC Branch 78
Quezon City
CRIM. CASE NO. Q-00-94114
Nature of Case: ESTAFA

Handsome Reward for person supplying lead of whereabouts resulting to final arrest of any of above listed persons formerly with Convoy Marketing Corp. address 147 Kaingin Road, Quezon City contact immediately Atty. Virginio Gener or Mr. John Evangelista at tel. nos. 361-4342, 0919-6554103, 0918-9426112.

(PDI - Aug 31, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Metropolitan Trial Court of Mandaluyong City has issued a Warrant of Arrest against

AI MIN WANG

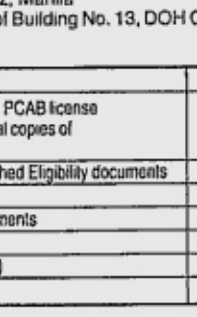
a Taiwanese national who is facing charges in connection with Criminal Case No. 90496 for violation of Batas Pambansa No. 22. His last known address is at #35 Nicanor Roxas Street, Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City.

Any person who can provide information on the whereabouts of Al Min Wang that can lead to his arrest shall be rewarded accordingly. Such information can be conveyed to the Station Commander, Quezon City Police Station, the National Bureau of Investigation or at Tel. No. 631-7520 / 21 (Attn: Mr. Camilo Domingo).

(PDI–Aug 31, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby advised that the person below

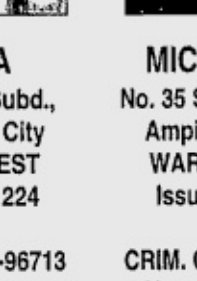


As of April 28, 2003, Mina Joy SP. Santos, whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with **BEAUTY PROFILE, CORP.** or **FACIAL CARE CENTER (FCC)**. From said date, any transaction of Ms. Santos in representation of or relating to the above companies shall be considered fraudulent and shall be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

(PDI – August 31, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby advised that the person below



As of March 3, 2003, Ms. Pamela Mulato-Jacalan, whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with **BEAUTY PROFILE, CORP.** or **FACIAL CARE CENTER (FCC)**. From said date, any transaction of Ms. Mulato-Jacalan in representation of or relating to the above companies shall be considered fraudulent and shall be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

(PDI – August 31, 2003)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

People, Events & Products

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2003

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Globe's power-packed deals

GET READY to be charged to full power with Globe Handyphone's Power-Packed Deals. An array of the most sought-after handsets loaded with the best features and the high-powered G-Plan opti-SIM come free with a G-Plan of your choice.

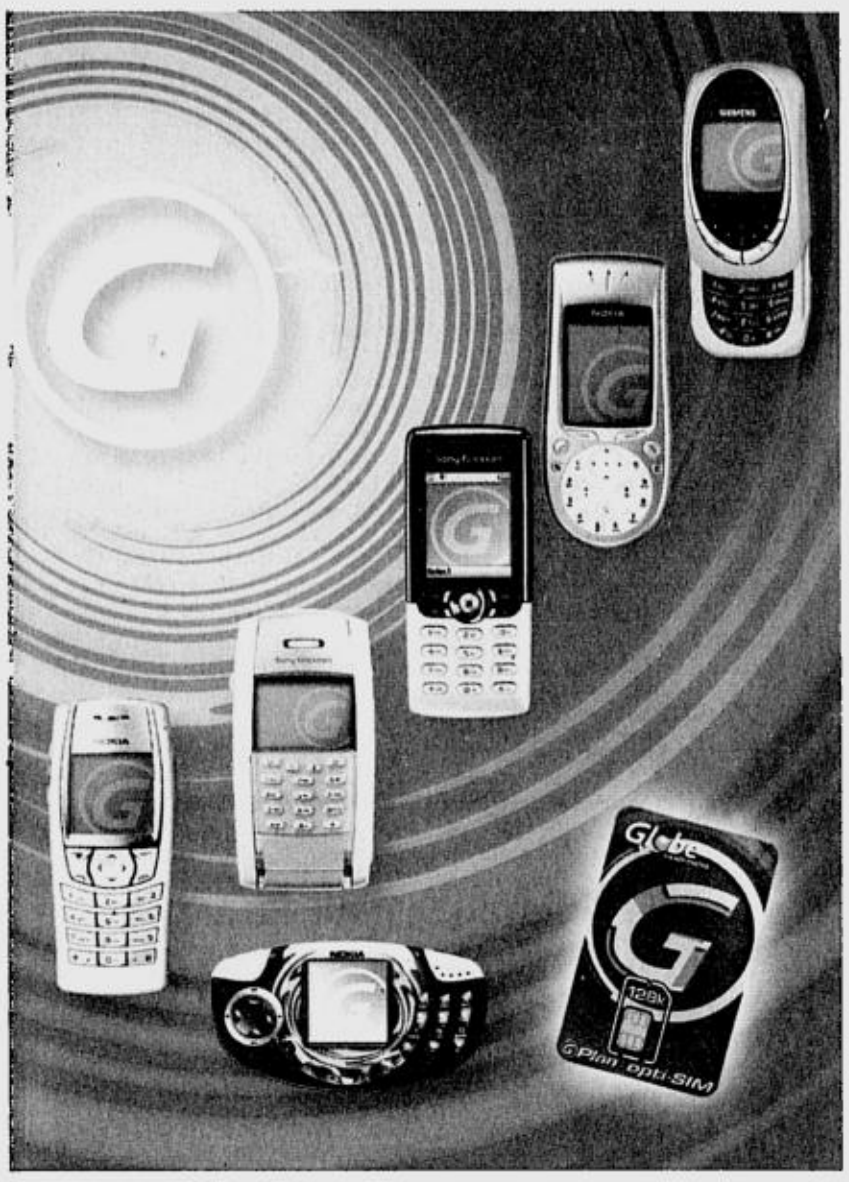
Optimize your life to the max with the most powerful SIM in the world, Globe's G-Plan opti-SIM. It powers up the handset that best suits your needs with its 128K capacity summed up in a 750 phonebook memory, 100 inbox message space and the new myOrganizer.

Have an even more energized lifestyle when you get a free phone at the best G-Plan that suits your lifestyle. Be at your best when you get the sleek Siemens SL55 free with a G-Max Plan. For P3,500 monthly, you get to be on top of things with its free 750 call minutes and 650 text messages. Be at a harmonious balance when you take your pick from any of the free handsets on a G-Match Plan: Ericsson T610 or the Nokia 3650, which come with 550 free text message and 500 free call minutes for only P2,500 monthly. You're always ready for life's mix of surprises when you get the Nokia 3530 free at a G-Mix Plan. For only P800 monthly, free 100 minutes and 350 text messages comes in handy. Be able to savor texting more of your friends when you get the free Nokia 2100 or Ericsson T100 at a G-Text Plan. With its free 500 text messages and 20 call minutes, you're sure to be the object of your friends' envy.

Want to share these thrilling deals with the rest of the family? Get a second line for them through Globe's Family Values Plans. Your sister will definitely be in style with a free Nokia 6610 on the G-Talk Plan. For only P1,200, it will give her free 350 text messages and 210 call minutes which allows her to always keep in touch with her friends for the latest trends. Your mom will be more than gleeful when you present her with the Nokia 3300 which you get for free on G-Talk Plus. Its free 450 text messages and 350 call minutes will even guarantee her the best time for just P1,800 monthly. And make sure dad is the leader at his game with the G-Max Plan and a free Sony Ericsson P800.

There is no better time to get your own G-Plan than today. Grab these electrifying deals at any Globe Telecom Business Center and the Hub from Aug. 31 to Sept. 30.

Now it's possible to load up on the power of connectivity. So take on more energy and seize these power-packed deals only form Globe Handyphone, the leader in digital communication.



TAKE your pick from these power-packed phones free with a G-plan and the new opti-SIM, from Globe's grand deal.

NAREL TO LAUNCH THE VILLAGE SPORTS CLUB

Narel Group of Companies, a leader in homebuilding, with more than a thousand homes built with its 'worry-free' housing concept, will soon be launching its primary project 'The Village Sports Club'. The project will be housed on a 1.8 hectare property located at El Grande Street corner Tropical Avenue at BF International Village, Las Piñas City. The entire land is being acquired from Top Management Programs.Corp. The sports club is envisioned to cater to the recreational demand of the homeowners at BF and its adjacent areas. Once operational, the club will definitely be the best sports facility to cater to the aspiring and expert health aficionados. Shown in the picture during the signing of the land acquisition, from left: Amelita Villarosa, president of Top Management Programs Corp.; Christian Relova, president of Narel Group of Companies and Christopher Narciso, chief operating officer of Narel. At the back are the officers and staff of Topman who witnessed the signing agreement.

AUTOMATIC CENTRE'S GREENHILLS APPLIANCE FAIR

Automatic Centre whips up a storm of appliances and home entertainment systems with zero-percent interest on all items, brands and models through Citibank Paylite at the Automatic Centre's Greenhills Appliance Fair. Ongoing until Aug. 31, the appliance exhibit boasts of zero-percent payment plans with up to 12 months payment terms on some models. A furniture collection by Blims and around 22 appliance suppliers with more than 30 brands are participating with some models at the lowest price, or your money back. Also offered is the Warranty Plus program that provides buyers the option to extend new appliances' original warranty coverage for one, two or even four more years. The appliance fair is an annual event every August at the Greenhills Shopping Center with Automatic Centre managing this year's event. Store hours are from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sundays to Thursdays and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

PHILIPPINE 2000

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Early Childhood Development Project
Loan Agreement No. ADB-ADF 1607 PHI (SF)

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in financing the Early Childhood Development Project (ECDP). Part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied for eligible payments for the conduct of a research study.
2. The Department of Social Welfare and Development now invites eligible research institution/agencies to apply for the provision of consulting services to undertake the following studies:

Title of Study	Objectives of the Study	Minimum Qualifications
a. Evaluative Study on the Impact of ECD-IEC Materials	Evaluate/assess all produced/ developed ECD-IEC materials under the ECD Project (including materials developed by the Implementing Agencies and Local Government Units) on the basis of their content, format, presentation, medium, rationality, acceptability, understandability and impact.	The consultancy firm must have handled projects in the area of child health, welfare and development for at least three (3) to five (5) years
b. Evaluation of the Continuum and Best Practices of Project Educational Activities	To review and assess the continuum of all educational activities; and identify and document best practices and alternative methods of teaching-learning in the Early Childhood Development Project	The consultancy firm must have handled projects in the area of child health, welfare and development for at least three (3) to five (5) years

3. Interested research institutions may obtain further information and secure a complete set of Information to Consultants, upon presentation of a letter of intent, starting **September 1, 2003** from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat at 2nd Floor, Property and Supply Division, DSWD, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City with telephone numbers: 931-8161 & 931-8101 to 07 loc. 125. Deadline for the submission of duly notarized accomplished Information to Consultant, SEC registration, constitution and by-laws, company profile and other related documents is on **September 22, 2003.**

(Sgd.) **Asst. Sec. RHODA F. YAP**
Assistant Secretary &
Chairperson, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - Aug 24 & 31, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

PHILIPPINE 2000

Early Childhood Development Project

INVITATION FOR BIDS

IFB No. ECDP-ADB/03-DSWD-001

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in various currencies towards the cost of the Early Childhood Development Project (Loan No. ADB-ADF 1607-PHI). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under this Contract.

Printing of 400,200 copies
Developing Readiness Skills: Materials for Pupils (DRS)

2. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Printing of the Department of Education Developing Readiness Skills to School Divisions in Regions VII & XII.
3. International Shopping procedure will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single Stage One Envelop System and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and purchase the complete bidding documents starting September 8, 2003 upon submission of a written application and payment of a non-refundable fee of **TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2,000.00)**, to the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, Philippines with tel. nos. (632) 931-8161 & 931-8101 to 07 loc. 125, fax no. (632) 951-7116
5. All sealed bids (complete with requirements) must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than 2% of total bid amount in the form of a bank guarantee, irrevocable letter of credit, manager's check, cashier's or certified check valid for 90 days and must be delivered to the Administrative Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Administrative Building on **8 October 2003** at 2.00 p.m. **Late bids shall be rejected.**
6. The Department of Social Welfare and Development will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids
7. Prior to bid opening, a **pre-bid conference** will be held on **24 September 2003,** 10.00 a.m. at the address indicated in paragraph 5
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend on **8 October 2003,** 2.00 p.m. at the Administrative Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Administrative Building, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Batasan Complex.
9. The Department of Social Welfare and Development reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any formality in the bids received or to accept such bids which may be considered most responsive and advantageous.

(Sgd.) **RHODA F. YAP**
Assistant Secretary and
Chairperson, DSWD-BAC-I

(PDI - Aug 31 & Sept. 7, 2003)

Montgomery Place's 'Meet Your Neighbor'

MONTGOMERY Place, Ayala Land's premiere townhouse community, celebrates its "Meet your Neighbors" event on Aug. 31 at the Montgomery Place Townhall located along E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City. The event offers residents and buyers the opportunity to get to know one another, as well as foster good relationships and camaraderie among neighbors of the new community.

Fun-filled games and surprises await residents and their guests in this special event. By the end of this year, all of the buyers of Phase 1 are expected to move in.

The "Meet Your Neighbors" day-long event will begin with a Eucharistic Mass at 10 am. and is highlighted by lunch at noon and games throughout, such as Human Bingo, Charades, Spelling Quiz Bee, and Bring Me!

Designed along the genteel lines of the gracious American South, Montgomery Place is a townhouse community that provides effortless access to places of work, education, and leisure, while maintaining the serene sense of privacy.It is overseen by the Ayala Property Management Corp.

Interested? Call 848-5000 or visit www.ayalaland.com.ph.

GPM CELEBRATES NATIONAL HEROES' DAY

Galing Pilipino Movement (GPM) celebrates National Heroes' Day in key cities in Metro Manila today. Joining the whole day event is Max's Restaurant in Greenbelt as one of the breakfast hosts. Present during the contract signing are (from left) Myles Andaya, GPM project director, Erly de Guzman, GPM president, Carlo Fajardo, Max's Restaurant marketing manager, and Vern Deem, Max's branch manager.

Tungsten T2 promo

PALM is giving away the T Essential Kit with every purchase of the Tungsten T2. This promo is available only to customers who purchase the new Tungsten T2 from Aug. 1 to 31. The kit consists of a sleek Palm sleeve case, recharging USB HotSync cable, two styli and six screen protectors valued at P1,960. Simply submit the following documents at the redemption center: 1 valid ID, official receipt with customer's name or retailer-certified copy, UPC barcode cut-out from the packaging box, and the warranty card. The redemption centers are located at the following Microwarehouse branches: Manila, 4 United St., Kapitolyo, Pasig City; Cebu City, 39 D. Borromeo Arcade, F. Ramos St.; and Davao City, Door 2, San Vicente Bldg., Tionko Ave.

Search for Tofil '03

CONCEPTUALIZED by the Philippine Jaycee Senate, The Outstanding Filipino (Tofil) Award was designed to identify and publicly recognize Filipino men and women 41 years of age and older who are models of dedication to their profession or vocation and have made significant contributions to the advancement of their profession, public welfare and national development. Nomination forms are available at all Philippine Jaycee Senate chapter offices and Insular Life offices nationwide. Nomination forms may also be downloaded from the Tofil website, www.tofil.ph. For inquiries call the Jaycee Senate secretariat office at 374-4390 and 373-5819 or the Insular Life head office at 771-1818. Nominations should cover accomplishments up to June 30. Deadline for submission of nominations is today.

Ali Mall treat

ALI MALL, the first multi-level commercial mall in the country, is marking its 27th year with an anniversary treat by giving away three personal computers to lucky mall goers this August. Every P300 single receipt purchase entitles a customer to a raffle coupon. Customers must present the receipt at the promo booth located at the main lobby to get the coupon, which they have to fill out and drop at the designated drop boxes. The winners will be notified through registered mail. The promo will end today and the raffle draw will be held on Sept. 6. To claim the prizes, winners must present the registered mail and a valid ID at the administration office located the the 2nd floor.

The bazaar is back

WITH its last day today, shoppers still have a chance to enjoy the best bargains on factory-priced items and export overruns at 1530 Bazaar in Alabang Town Center. A percentage of the proceeds from the bazaar will be donated to the Samahan ni Maria Foundation for its educational program for street children and other outreach programs of St. James Parish Church, so go ahead and splurge for a worthy cause. The bazaar is at the Madrigal Art Center, behind the St. James Parish Church in Ayala Alabang. For more information, call 871-7386, 0917-8462199 or 0917-5014311.

My Day at Sesame St.

CHILDREN of Metro Manila, Cebu and Iloilo had a once-in-a-lifetime chance to meet and greet their favorite Sesame Street pals. Promil Kid brought Sesame Street to their local malls and supermarkets on a fun filled weekend tour called 'My Day at Sesame Street.' Your child can still spend a fun day at Sesame Street today. Just see posters and print ads for more details.

Gundam weekend

YOUNG Gundam fans have until today to enjoy a rare and exhilarating experience with their favorite Gundam figures and model kits. The month-long series of wholesome, youth-oriented events featuring Gundam figures and model kits draws to a successful close with the Gundam Super Deformed (SD) building experience to be held today, starting at 2 p.m. in Toy Kingdom. During the affair, kids aged 8 to 12 years can show of their talents and skills in building Gundam model kits.

Frito Lay promo

FOR THE whole month of August and September, you can avail of free regular pepperoni pan pizza worth P68 from Pizza Hut every time you buy any Frito Lay snack such as Doritos Tortilla Chips, Lay's Potato Chips, Ruffles Potato Chips, Cheetos Cheese Snacks, Tostitos Corn Chips and Sunchips Multigrain snack. Present empty packs of 2 Frito Lay big bags with promo sticker when you dine at Pizza Hut and get a regular pepperoni pan pizza free. You can also present 3 empty Frito Lay midsize packs or 4 empty small packs and enjoy a whopping 50 percent discount whenever you order the mentioned pizza. You can avail this delicious freebie at all Pizza Hut restaurants nationwide.

WFC exec arrives

THE WORLD Flower Council's (WFC) international chair for Asia and the Pacific Lim Poh Bee arrives today for the WFC's 20th Annual Summit on Sept. 4 to 7 at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel. Also arriving tomorrow is Thailand's Phubast Chesdmethee who will be one of 20 floral design masters featured in "A Day with the Experts", a flower arranging session that will interpret the summit's theme "Discover the Wonders of the Philippines" on Sept. 6. The Philippines hosts for the first time this once a year gathering of floral designers and masters as well as flower shop operators from WFC's 27-member countries.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

PRODUCER JUNKS SEQUEL TO DECEMBER TOP-GROSSER

'Lastikman' creator's family wanted ₱2M

By Marinel R. Cruz

OCTOARTS Films will no longer produce the sequel to "Lastikman," last year's Metro Manila Film Festival top-grosser, because the family of the character's creator, the late *komiks* master Mars Ravelo, had asked for an "astronomical" price.

OctoArts president Orly Ilacad said negotiations between his film outfit and the Ravelo family broke down when the family asked for P2 million and co-ownership of the movie's radio, television and cable rights.

"We've consulted a lot of people about this and they all say the price is astronomical and unreasonable," Ilacad told Inquirer Entertainment last Friday. "We merely adapted the name of the character but the story is ours."

"Lastikman" was based on the popular *komiks* character created by Ravelo, who also gave life to other Pinoy superheroes such as Darna, Captain Barbel and Dyesebel.

In the 2002 December film fest top grosser, comedian Vic Sotto played Lastikman, who has super-flexible arms and a super-malleable body.

Ilacad said that for last year's movie, OctoArts paid the Ravelos P100,000, from an initial offer of P150,000, for the right to revive the character originally portrayed by Von Serna in the 1950s.

Because OctoArts failed to win the right to produce the sequel, it has changed its entry in this year's Metro Manila Film Festival to "Fantastikman."

Ravelo's daughter, Rita, told Inquirer Entertainment last Friday that she would request a copy of the script of "Fantastikman" that OctoArts submitted to Caloocan City Mayor Rey Malonzo, who is chair of this year's film fest.

"I want to make sure if the superhero character in the movie does not have the same superhuman stretching characteristic as Lastikman," Rita said.

She said she only means to protect her father's intellectual property rights, as well as the interest of other producers who would like to produce the sequel.

She said, "*Ayaw nilang magbayad ng* rights? That is fine with me, as long as they will not use any of the characters that my father had created."

Ilacad said OctoArts is aware of its responsibilities as a film producer and would not violate any rules in the contract with the Ravelo family.

"I think they should be grateful to us for reviving the movie after more than 40 years and for introducing the character to the younger

LASTIKMAN/ C6

Reese WITHERSPOON
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Lil Bow Wow (that's MY NAME)	N lilbowwow	P lilbowwow
Supermodel	N supermodel	P supermodel
When A Woman	N whenawoman	P whenawoman
Perfect Day	N perfectday	P perfectday
Round 2x	N round2x	P round2x
Bootylicious	N booty	P booty

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WAP site downloads are not included in the promo. See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3682, Series of 2003.

Robert Seña sings opera, standards—and disco!

SHOW TIME

IT'S SHOWTIME!

On Sept. 12 and 13, Friday and Saturday, the glitz and glamour of the big band era live again in Robert Seña's solo concert at the Music Museum, aptly titled "Showtime." Robert's special guests will be Richard Merk and Joel Torre.

"Showtime" is a reprise of the soundtrack of Robert's musical life, from his early years as a struggling pop artist to his rise in local and international theater.

Robert's repertoire includes standards such as "Just the Way You Look Tonight," "More Today Than Yesterday, "For Once in My Life," "Fly Me to the Moon," "O Sole Mio," "La Donna e Mobile," "Soy Yo," "Pity the Child," "Impossible Dream," "Our Father," "I Believe" and some reworked disco classics such as "Tragedy" and "Disco Inferno."

For his first major concert, Robert's production team pulled out all the stops to recreate the look and feel of the old bandstand era.

"I'm lucky to have the best theater performers helping me out here," he says. His guests include Fil Tariao, Jaime del Prado, Cecile Martinez, Tintin Martinez, Ampy Sietereales, Gerard Mendoza, Roden Araneta, Ariel Reonal, Myrene Hernandez, Sisa Esteva and the Ugoy-Ugoy Band.

'Showtime' is directed by Rico Gutierrez, with script by Jon G. Mendoza. Bond Samson is musical director, and Andy Alviz and Jaime del Prado are the choreographers. The show is presented by Columbia's in cooperation with Coca-Cola Light, Viva Mineral Water, Philippine Airlines and WG&A Super Ferry, and also sponsored by Adidas, Artwork, 105.1 Crossover, Gourmet's Café, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star, Manila Bulletin, Facial Care Center, Joey 92.3, LSA Printing Press, Photo Plus and Music Museum.

For inquiries, e-mail prodcore@tri-isys.com or robertsena@robertsena.com. Tickets are available at the Music Museum, 721-6762 and Ticketworld, 891-5610. Show time is 9:00 p.m.

Machonurin ka ba?

Mga maskulado, maton, stuntman at bodybuilder...haharapin ang hamon ng buhay-babae!
Patikim pa lang yan. Marami pang kuwela at kakalbang mga challenge na dapat abangan!

Simula September 1, gabi-gabi nang bibida! Extra Challenge 7:00 PM • LUNES-BIYERNES GMA

Cultural Center of the Philippines

IN COOPERATION WITH

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS
THE LAGUNA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
THE LAGUNA TOURISM COUNCIL
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Sta. Rosa de Lima Parish, Sta. Rosa, 7:00 p.m.

EARTH CHOIR (Taiwan)
SAN BEDA COLLEGE CHORALE (Philippines)
Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (CCP Main Theater) 8:00 p.m

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CHORUS SINE NOMINE (Austria)
ASIAN INSTITUTE FOR LITURGY AND MUSIC CHORALE (Philippines)
San Antonio de Padua Shrine, Pila, 4:00 p.m.

PILGRIM MISSION CHOIR (Korea)
SAN BEDA COLLEGE CHORALE (Philippines)
St. Peter of Alcantara Church, Pakil, 7:00 p.m.

HAMRAHLID CHOIR (Iceland)
UNIVERSITY OF SAN AGUSTIN TROUBADOURS (Philippines)
Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (CCP Main Theater) 8:00 p.m.

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San Isidro Labrador, Calauan, 4:00 p.m.

HAMRAHLID CHOIR (Iceland)
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St. Paul First Hermit Cathedral, San Pablo, 7:00 p.m.

CHORUS SINE NOMINE (Austria)
UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS SINGERS (Philippines)
Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (CCP Main Theater) 8:00 p.m

5
HAMRAHLID CHOIR (Iceland)
SAN BEDA COLLEGE CHORALE (Philippines)
Umali Hall, University of the Philippines, Los Baños, 4:00 p.m.

EARTH CHOIR (Taiwan)
UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS SINGERS (Philippines)
St. John the Baptist Church, Calamba, 7:00 p.m.

6
PILGRIM MISSION CHOIR (Korea)
ASIAN INSTITUTE FOR LITURGY AND MUSIC CHORALE (Philippines)
Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (CCP Main Theater) 8:00 p.m.

7
PHILIPPINE MADRIGAL SINGERS
Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (CCP Main Theater) 8:00 p.m.

CLOSING CEREMONIES, Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (CCP Main Theater) 6.00 p.m.

*with the special participation of HIMIG SANGHAYA CHORALE in all performances in Laguna

Now comes the Gawad Direk

ANOTHER award-giving body? After the Famas, FAP, Urian and Star Awards, not to mention the CMMA and the Box Office King and Queen, the Young Critics Circle, the MMFF and the MFF—another one?

Well, yes. The Gawad Direk.

But believe it or not, this one promises no scams or scandals, has little glamour factor, is not a fund-raiser, and will probably not attract starlets in *deshabille*. It isn't boring, by any means. In fact, if you're a cineaste, it has to be the most exciting thing for local cinema in a spell.

It helps, of course, that Gawad Direk comes from good, strong stock.

It is birthed by the Directors Guild of the Philippines Inc., which was founded in 1993 by 11 directors whose spirit guide, as it were, is **Lino Brocka**, the internationally renowned director who perished in a car crash at the awful age of 52, just two years before the DGPI, his brainchild, became a reality. Originally a breakaway group from the Kapisanan ng mga Direktor ng Pelikulang Pilipino, the DGPI has since mended fences with industry guilds, is today headed by **Carlitos Siguion-Reyna**, one of the original 11, and counts 47 regular members, with its 48th star no less than honorary member National Artist **Eddie Romero.**

But pedigree is nothing without proof. And if the Gawad Direk awards night of Aug. 15 is anything, it is that.

Hours after Gawad Direk showed on Channel 9 two nights later, **Mother Lily**, **Tita Midz** and **Manay Ichu**—only those with snooty affectations will say they don't know who these women are—sent congratulatory buzzes to the directors. They were dead right.

The Gawad Direk night was nothing short of a study in how to mount an awards night for television. With the full backing of Tape's **Tony Tuviera**, who, after saying "Let's go all out," provided the jimmy jib, cammate, steady cam and everything else in between, the young **Mark Reyes** (director for GMA 7's "Love to Love") gave it his all. One year all in all, in fact. In the end, Gawad Direk's attention to logic and aesthetic and emotion and bite paid off.

In honoring **Eddie Romero** for his body of work, for instance, the production number was, in the words of Mark, "epic": A resplendent **Kuh Ledesma** renders "Iduyan Mo" arranged to the range and sweep of ethnic-Indian traditional music arching to a techno beat. Appropriately, too, as every Romero follower knows that the director's niche in local cinema has been carved by the daring arch of his *obras*: "Aguila" and "Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon?"

For **Celso Ad Castillo**, a sense of "sensuality more than sexuality," with a stage that brings the eye to the dome where the sexy **Maricar de Mesa** in skin-tone body stockings writhes from a vine to where two sexy escorts wait below. After all, Celso, once dubbed filmdom's *enfante terrible*, has more than once allowed us our many beautiful sensual incursions: "Burlesk Queen" and "Pagputi ng Uwak, Pag-itim ng Tagak."

For **Maning Borlaza**, who created memorable films like "Bukas Luluhod ang Mga Tala" and "Bituing Walang Ningning," a stage set is dominated by his movies' equally successful song icons. For Borlaza is, to his peers, "iconic." His is the unerring ability to draw from the common and give back to the audience that which had always been theirs. Little wonder his films have been box-office phenomena.

For **Ronwaldo Reyes**, a.k.a FPJ, nothing short of "legendary" would suffice. And so the UP Cherubims, garbed in white, filled the stage to sing FPJ's movie theme songs, after which they parted as one, like FPJ's black-hooded nemeses might, to give way to a gold-painted bust of Ronwaldo Reyes. It was a tribute with the solemn grandeur of his "Ang Panday" movies.

For **Chaning Carlos**, who directed all of 102 films, most of them blockbuster comedies, there was a quality of innocence. In an upbeat, feel-good musical medley, **Roderick Paulate**, **Manilyn Reynes** and **Matet** sang songs from Chaning's films "Bunsong Kerubim," "Inday Bote," and more. Set against the backdrop of four panels pasted with posters of the director's films, the musical ended with the panels rotating to reveal four larger-than-life blow ups of the director, leaving gasps, then applause, to

JUICE

Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon

fill the AFP theater, in memory of a director who died eight months ago carrying the knowledge that he was to be honored by his peers.

And for each, video presentations directed by **Ruel Bayani**, which took the breath away for their pacing and research. With the FPJ film archive complete and well-preserved, scenes from his "Alupihang Dagat" were as clear as if they had been shown, not in 1975, but yesterday.

In the end, the well-executed stage spectacle was no less than a running history of film.

But more than the one year it took to mount the awards night, there are the five long years of living with the idea. That, believe it, is how long this bunch of directors has toyed with and refined and mowed down and transmogrified what is now Gawad Direk.

Gawad Direk, therefore, is an idea whose time has long come: the idea that art is not a matter of contest, that artists need not be recognized by being pitted against each other, and that true artists shall each have their own exceptional place without ever fearing those who came before or will come after.

Very deliberately, say directors **Mel Chionglo**, **Joey Romero**, **Joey Reyes** and **Joel Lamangan**, Gawad Direk did not honor one director as the best for the year—and will not do so in the years when, whether regularly or irregularly, it shall hold its next awards. Instead, they say the goal is to recognize a "body of work." That is, to identify the niche a director's works have carved in local culture and to honor how those works have both reflected and defined a people in their time.

HONORED by their peers are (from left) Borlaza, FPJ, Romero and Castillo.

PHOTO COURTESY OF YES! MAGAZINE

And so, Maning Borlaza's melodramas are now the stuff of our many television soaps. He can laugh and say been there, done that, but instead, in his moving thank-you speech, he recalled how hard it was for local directors to fill up those movie theaters then, and hints at how the same repeats itself now. So he tells the DGPI: *"Hindi kami sumuko at lalong hindi kayo susuko."*

After the high, more work.

Gawad Direk will, in the next years, honor not only fellow directors but all artists involved in creating the film environment. Scriptwriters, makeup artists, musicians, dancers, even film critics and scholars, it says, will be recognized for their body of work. As such may art survive.

Heightened expectations

LAST Aug. 17, the weekly TV spin-off of the hit movie, "Ang Tanging Ina," started telecasting on Channel 2. The pilot episode showed the title character played by **Ai Ai de las Alas** about to get married to **Dennis Padilla.**

At the wedding, Ai Ai was shocked when a "tribal" person (**Roderick Paulate**) showed up, claiming to be her brother. She didn't want to have anything to do with him—until she fell ill and he saved her life by donating blood to her.

In addition, he even paid her huge medical bill! Of course, Ai Ai was chastened, and finally opened her heart out to her long-lost sibling.

The premiere telecast was properly energetic, but its comic impact was blunted by the inordinate length of some of its sequences, which tended to drag on and on, to the point of tedium. Comedy is supposed to be short and punchy, so long sequences can be a major downer.

Another problem was the fact that Ai Ai's character had so many children, each of whom didn't have much time onscreen, so they failed to come on strong. We trust that future episodes will concentrate on a few of them at a time, so they can come into their own as interesting and empathetic characters.

As for Ai Ai, she proved to be a hardworking talent who refused to rest on her film's success, and her idiosyncratic brand of comedy is reliably bemusing. We hope, however, that she continually adds to her still limited repertoire of comic tricks, to keep her performance from eventually becoming predictable.

This is particularly necessary now that the comedienne has attained TV-film stardom. It's great being a star,

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

but it also brings with it heightened expectations that require the new luminary to work even harder to retain his or her stellar position.

New stars like Ai Ai need to know this, so they don't experience the stultifying "sophomore slump" that has affected so many lead performers' careers.

Int'l choral festival

FROM Sept. 1 to 7, the CCP and NCCA is holding the 2003 Philippine International Choral Festival, with performances at the CCP and at cultural heritage sites in Laguna.

Participating are the Chorus Sine Nomine from Austria, Earth Choir from Taiwan, Hamrahlid Choir from Iceland, Pilgrim Mission Choir from Korea, and the Philippine Madrigal Singers, Himig Sanghaya Chorale from Laguna, UST Singers, San Beda College Chorale, University of San Agustin Troubadors, and the Asian Institute for Liturgy and Music Chorale.

The opening concert is at 8 p.m. on Sept. 1 at the CCP Main Theater. Daily evening concerts featuring selected choirs will be held at the CCP, as well as at various Laguna churches from Sept. 2 to 6.

A concert by the Philippine Madrigal Singers is set for Sept. 6 at the CCP, and the festival culminates at 6 p.m. on Sept. 7 at the CCP. In addition to the choral concerts, visiting conductors will also hold workshops and lecture-demonstrations at the Cultural Center.

Do try to catch some of the concerts in Laguna churches. They should be especially charming, and we hear that the Laguna communities involved have gone out of their way to make the musical events truly special.

Call the CCP Music Division at 832-1125, local 1604.

Advance screenings

DWLL-FM Mellow Touch 94.7 sponsors the advance screening of the crime caper, "S.W.A.T.," at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 2 at Glorietta Cinema. The action-packed movie topbills Samuel L. Jackson and Colin Farrell.

On Sept. 2, the animated feature, "Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas," will be premiered at 7:30 p.m. at Robinsons Movieworld, Robinsons Galleria Plotline: Sinbad (voiced by **Brad Pitt**) is framed by Eris (**Michelle Pfeiffer**), the Goddess of Chaos, for stealing the powerful and priceless Book of Peace. He must retrieve the book, or else his best friend, Proteus (**Joseph Fiennes**) will be killed.

The film's voice cast also includes **Catherine Zeta-Jones**, who is assigned the role of Marina.

For free tickets, tune in to DWLL and, at the DJ's signal, call up and win your invitation.

Nyoy and Mannos

ON AUG. 31, **Nyoy Volante** and Mannos perform at Ginbal's Bar, Mount Crest Hotel in Baguio. On Sept. 1, they will visit radio stations in Dagupan City, and perform at Gatz Place Dagupan.

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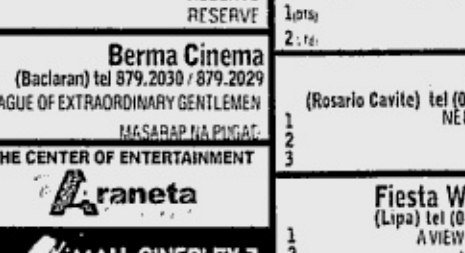

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8 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1 WAKING UP IN RENO
2 FINDING NEMO
3 SPY KIDS 3-D
4 LXG
5 VIEW FROM THE TOP
6 VISIBLE SECRET
7 NOON AT NGAYON
8 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
9 ITALIAN JOB
10 WWW.XXX.COM

SM CITY CEBU
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1 LXG
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
3 FINDING NEMO
4 ITALIAN JOB
5 WWW.XXX.COM
6 MR. BONES
7 NOON AT NGAYON
8 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 SNAKE LADY
2 RESERVED
3 LXG
4 FINDING NEMO
5 IN LAWS
6 VIEW FROM THE TOP
7 RESERVED
8 NOON AT NGAYON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2 ITALIAN JOB
3 LXG
4 DARK WATER
5 WWW.XXX.COM
6 NOON AT NGAYON

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
6294975

1 LXG
2 SPY KIDS 3-D
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
4 WWW.XXX.COM

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 SPY KIDS 3-D
2 WWW.XXX.COM
3 KEKA
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1 LXG
2 BANGKOK HAUNTED
3 KEKA
4 NOON AT NGAYON
5 NAKED WEAPON
6 FINDING NEMO

SM BICUTAN
776-3055

1 SPY KIDS 3-D
2 WWW.XXX.COM
3 ITALIAN JOB
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2884

1 FINDING NEMO
2 DUMB & DUMBERER
3 WWW.XXX.COM
4 VIEW FROM THE TOP

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-8976

SPY KIDS 3-D
10:10 FS/10:30 MF/12:25/2:20/4:15/6:10/8:05/9:30 LFS/10:00 LMF/11:25 END

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
10:50 FS/11:20 MF/2:15/5:10/8:05/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:25 END

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1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30 IHX
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
2 TALK TO HER 11:45, 2:00, 4:20, 6:10
5 WAKING UP IN RENO 10:20, 12:25, 2:30, 4:35
3 ITALIAN JOB 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
6 SPY KIDS 3 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
7 VIEW FROM THE TOP 11:00, 12:50, 2:40, 4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00
9 FINDING NEMO 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
8 LXG 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
10 NOON AT NGAYON 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

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1 SPY KIDS 3 - 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
2 FINDING NEMO 10:15, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
3 ITALIAN JOB 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
4 LXG 11:15, 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:45
5 NOON AT NGAYON 11:15, 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:50
6 WAKING UP IN RENO - 10:55, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45
7 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 10:30,1:20,4:10,7:00, 9:50

Metro East
Marcos hway
682-8193; 682-8199; 682-8280

1 ITALIAN JOB
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
3 FINDING NEMO
4 SPY KIDS 3
5 WAKING UP IN RENO
6 VIEW FROM THE TOP
7 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
8 NOON AT NGAYON

Novaliches
935-3229/31

1 SPY KIDS 3
2 ITALIAN JOB
3 VIEW FROM THE TOP
4 WAKING UP IN RENO
5 FINDING NEMO
6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
7 NOON AT NGAYON
8 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

Malabon
Citisquare
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2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
3 SPY KIDS 3
4 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

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San Fernando, Pamp.
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2 FINDING NEMO
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4 ALEX AND EMMA
5 ITALIAN JOB
6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

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3 NENA INOSENTE
4 SPY KIDS 3
5 ITALIAN JOB
6 FINDING NEMO

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Laguna
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2 THE IN-LAWS
3 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 FINDING NEMO
5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

Bacolod
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2 THE IN-LAWS
3 FINDING NEMO
4 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
5 VIEW FROM THE TOP
6 DARK WATER

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2 THE IN-LAWS
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4 SNAKE LADY
5 NENA INOSENTE
6 VIEW FROM THE TOP

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"WILDLY EROTIC!"
— Rolling Stone

This coming of age movie is about two 17-year-old best friends, Julio and Tenoch, two teens ruled by raging hormones and a mission to consume exotic substances. But one summer, the boys learn more about life than they bargain for when they set off on a wild cross-country trip with seductive, 28-year-old Luisa. Both boys taste forbidden fruit as Luisa schools them in the finer point of passion, but will their mutual desire for her destroy their friendship forever?

Y TU MAMA TAMBIEN broke records in Mexico, including the biggest opening ever for a Mexican film. The film has been nominated for a Golden Globe Award in the Best Foreign-Language Film category and has won other awards at film festivals as well.

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18)

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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	KEKA
Ali 2	NOON AT NGAYON
Ali 3	SPY KIDS 3
Ali 4	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
Ali 5	ITALIAN JOB
Ali 6	FINDING NEMO
Ali 7	LXG

ARANETA COLISEUM

SEPT 1	NCA 7-STAG DERBY
SEPT 3	NCA 7-STAG DERBY
SEPT 4	UAAP GAMES : ADMU VS. UST
SEPT 6	UAAP CHEERING COMPETITION
SEPT 11	UAAP GAMES: UST VS. UE
SEPT 13	UAAP GAMES. ADMU VS. DLSU
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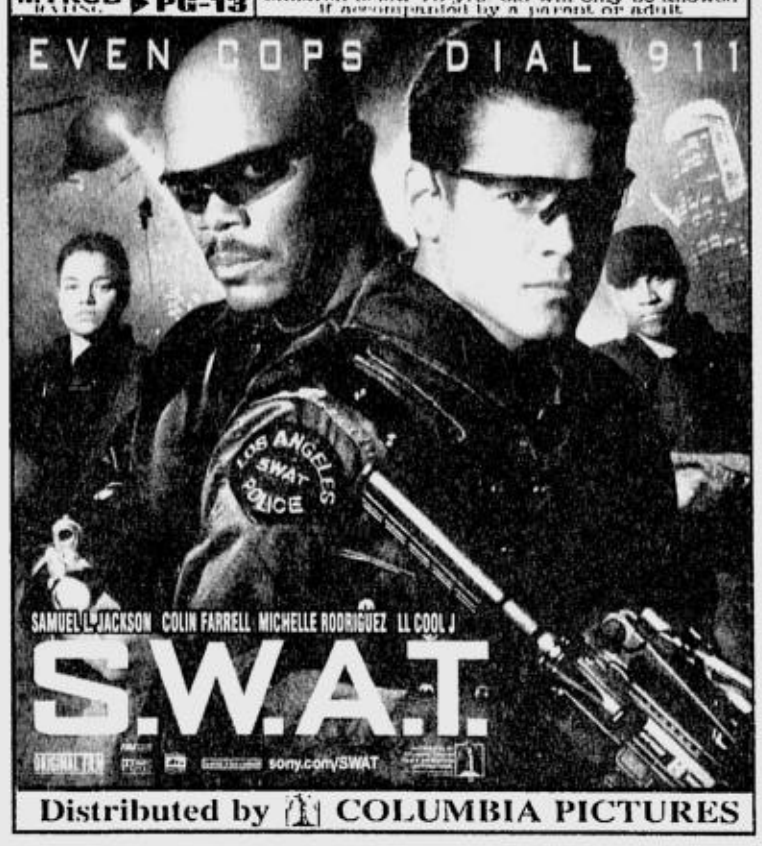

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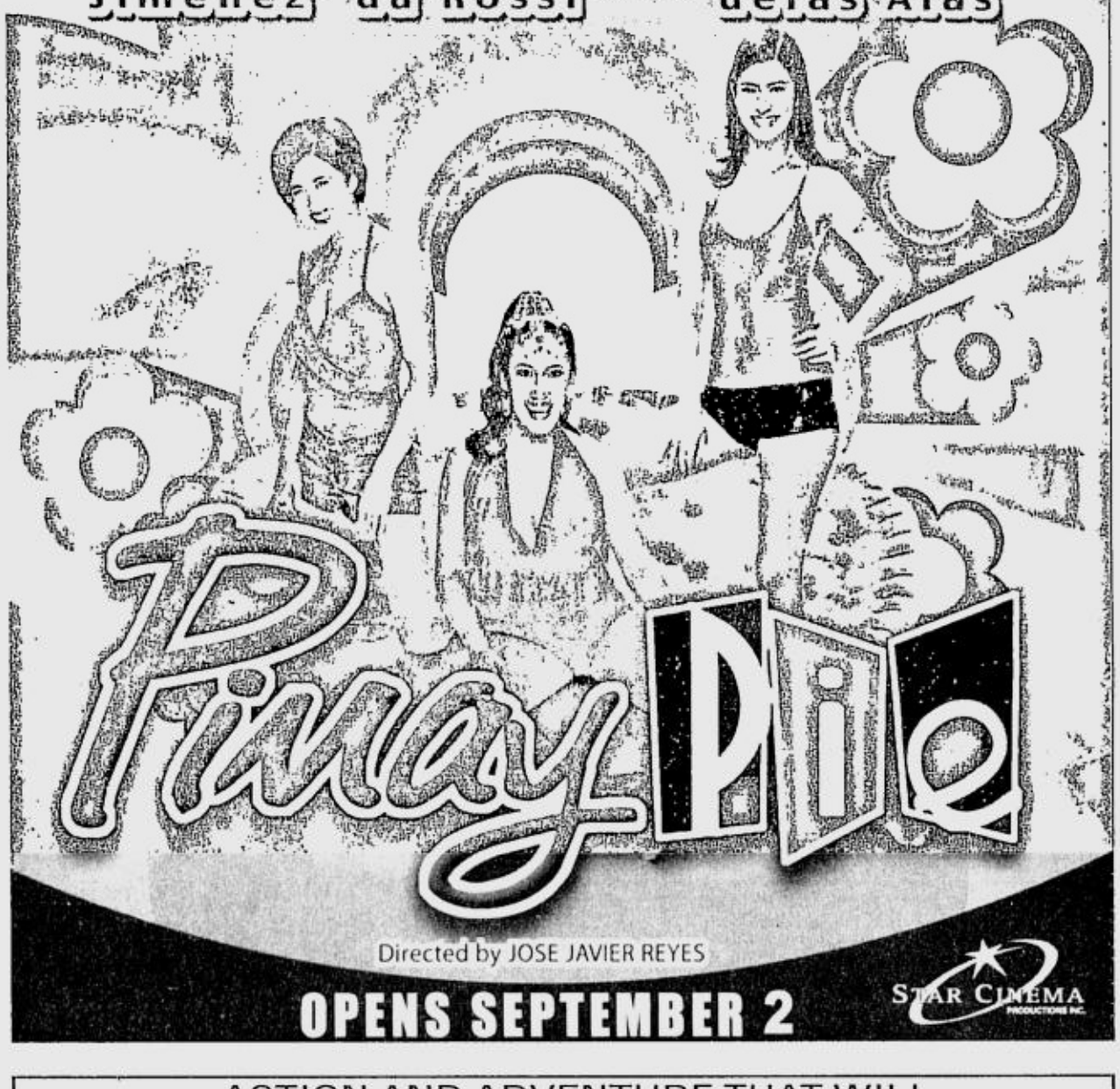
PINAY KAGANDAHAN...RARAMPA NA!
PIGURANG PINAY...POPORMA NA!

Onemig Bondoc Carlos Agassi Rafael Rossel
Carlo Maceda, Jenny Miller and Vhong Navarro

Joyce Jimenez | Assunta da Rossi | and | Ai-Ai delas Alas



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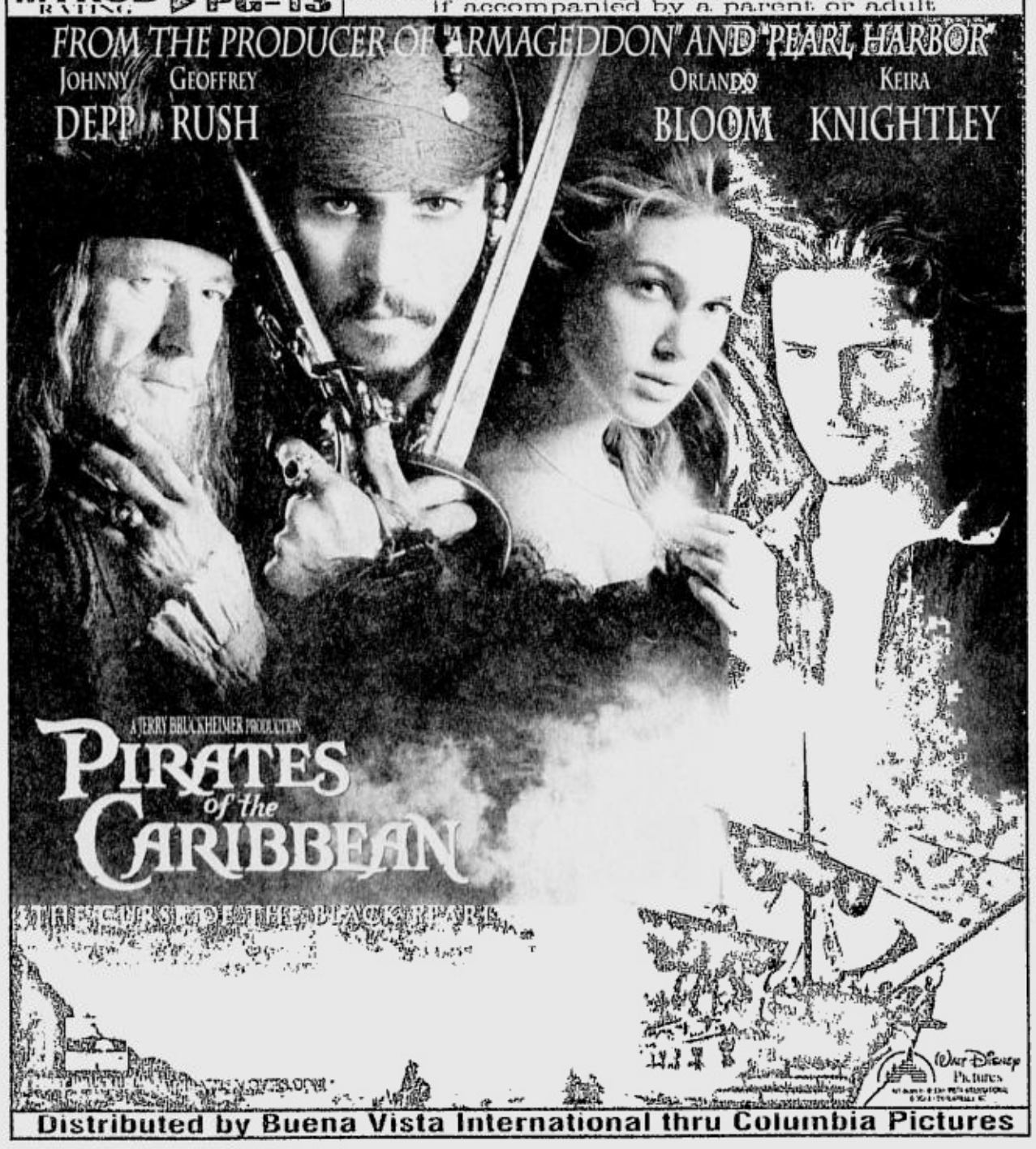

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Per DTI NCR Permit No. A1-470 Series of 2003

AYALA CINEMAS

Opens September 3 at Ayala Cinemas

AYALA CINEMAS

MTRCB Rating: General Patronage

Duelling insects, hidden wires

By Remy M. Umerez
Contributor

ON A stormy Thursday afternoon, we visited the set of MaQ Productions' "Gagamboy" in Pinaglabanan, San Juan, Estrada country.

Our host, supervising producer Joey Gosengfiao, bragged that shanties were constructed on the one-hectare lot owned by Mother Lily Monteverde, for the movie. The place has been transformed into a slum, the setting of Gagamboy's exploits.

Directing the big-budget production is Erik Matti, who said P2 million was spent putting junk together to create the squatter area. Playing Gagamboy is 25-year-old Streetboy dancer Vhong Navarro.

"We created a look that is very Pinoy and very *komiks*," said Matti. "No other actor was considered to play the title role except Vhong, who coined the word Gagamboy."

The set, designed by Richard Somis and his team, is a Gotham-like neighborhood. Also part of the creative team is the husband and wife tandem of Benny and Liz Batoctoy, in charge of the prosthetics for the creatures that Gagamboy has to fight.

The Bactotoys also executed the Gagamboy and Ipisman costumes, donned by Vhong and Jay Manalo, respectively, from the designs of Richard Somis. The costumes alone amounted to about P4 million, according to the director.

"GAGAMBOY" Vhong Navarro (above) vs "Ipisman" Jay Manalo

Matti said this would be the first work in Philippine movies that involves a lot of flying and leaping with the aid of wires and rigs similar to the ones used in Ang Lee's "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and the "Matrix" movies.

"Vhong performed the stunts himself," said the director. "With a background in gymnastics and street dancing, thanks to his training in Streetboys, Vhong was able to do the leaps. He did not allow the use of body doubles.

"We took all the precautionary measures to ensure his safety," the director added. "In one sequence, Vhong made a 60-foot jump with only a harness and a cable wire to support him. The visible wire will later be erased in the computer to make the spectacle look seamless.

"If Spiderman has a web to protect him from his rivals, Gagamboy has an orange goo that he can transform into whatever object he pleases. He can make an umbrella out of it to protect him from the rain, a bouquet of flowers to give to his Lois Lane (played by Aubrey Miles), a rain of bullets to stop Ipisman from attacking. We have to thank Optima for its 3D computer graphics."

Matti said Mother Lily "is so focused at making the kids very happy" and is making sure "Gagamboy" is a fun movie.

"We created a superhero who never graced a comic book but who will be in every kid's imagination once they see it on screen," the director said.

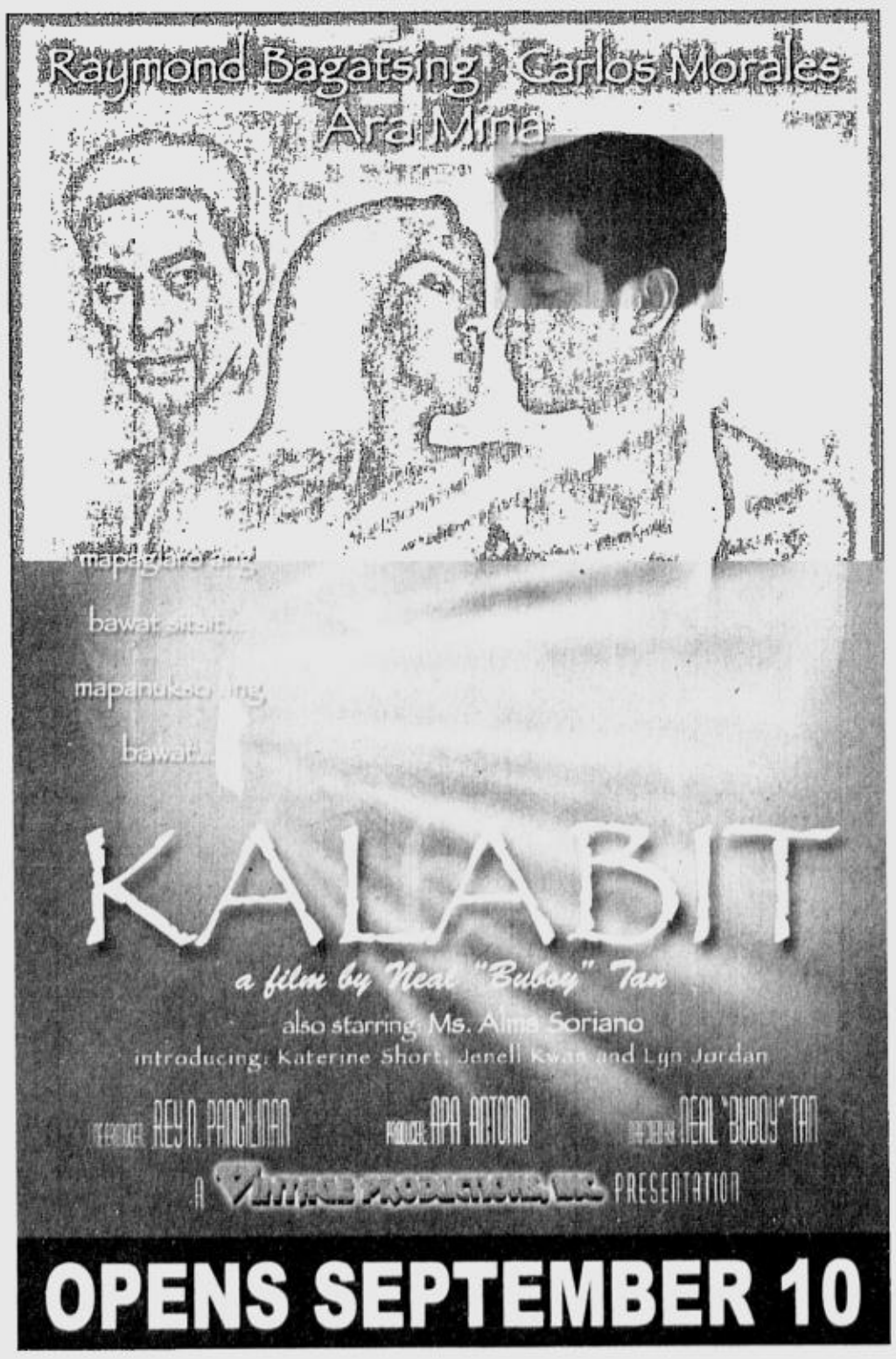
The scene to be shot during our visit required more than a hundred extras to make up the crowd in a beauty pageant. Aubrey was to be kidnapped by Jay, and Vhong learned of the plot. Disguised as a beauty contestant, Vhong would rescue Aubrey. No special effects were needed.

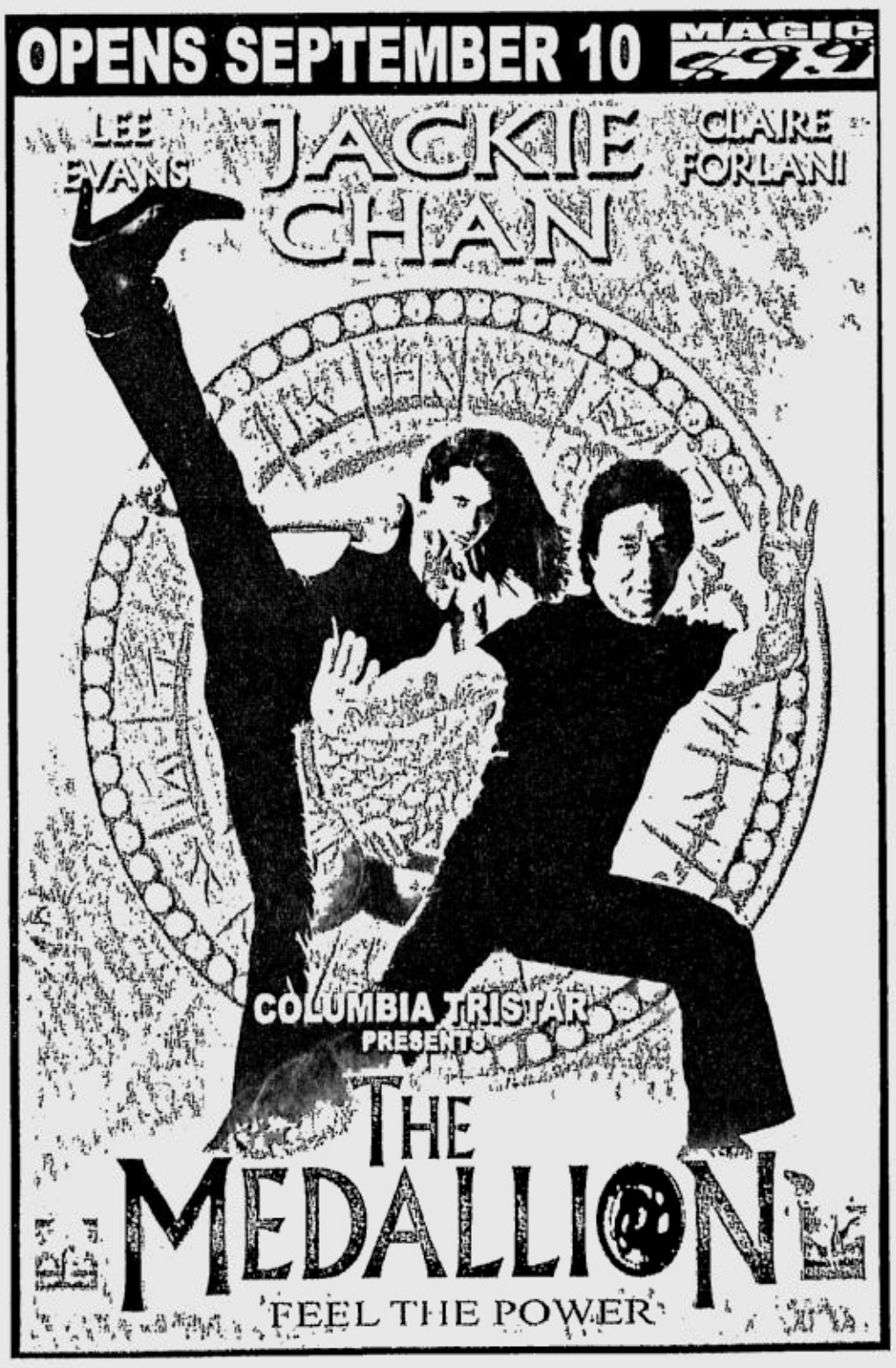
In the story, written by Dwight Gaston, Vhong and Jay got their powers by swallowing, what else, a spider and a cockroach. Aubrey is the *carinderia* girl loved by both Vhong and Jay.

Matti first directed Aubrey in the bold flick, "Prosti," where she was paired with Jay also.

"Gagamboy" will be in the Manila Film Festival in December.

PROSTHETICS expert Batoctoy and his creation





'Lastik-man' creator's family...

From page C1

generation," Ilacad said.

He said he hired scriptwriter Chito Francisco and comedian Michael V. to write the script of "Fantastik-man."

But he refused to divulge anything about the new character since "Fantastikman" is competing with two other fantasy movies in the film fest, Premiere Entertainment's "Captain Barbell" and MAQ Productions' "Gagamboy."

"We consider the failed negotiations with the Ravelos a blessing in disguise," Ilacada said. "Now the two other movies don't know what to expect from Fantastikman."

Malonzo told Inquirer Entertainment that the film fest committee would willingly provide Ravelo a copy of the script as soon as she makes the request.

Malonzo said Ilacad had informed him about the change in the title of its film fest entry, but that he has not yet seen the script, "so I can't tell whether the story has been revised."

Sexbomb Girls, Assunta, Jomari on GMA 7

SHOW TIME

STARTING Monday, Sept. 1, three fast-paced shows on GMA 7 will add spice to TV viewing.

"Extra! Extra!" will have more unique episodes and a new prime time slot -- 7 p.m., right after "Frontpage. " Miriam Quiambao and Paolo Bediones on Monday will present the "Machonurin" challenge when eight macho men, including body-builders, stuntmen and athletes, explore their feminine side by taking a crash course in cooking, taking care of toddlers, ironing, washing, joining a cardio-striptease class, styling a photo shoot, living an all-pink pad.

The Sexbomb Girls strut their stuff in a new series called "Daisy Siete." The girls portray a *barkada* of *colegialas* living in one dormitory, studying in the same school but leading diverse lives. Co-produced by Tape Inc., "Daisy Siete" is at 2:30 p.m. after "Eat Bulaga!"

Right after "Daisy Siete" is the drama series "Hawak Ko ang Langit," starring Assunta de Rossi and Jomari Yllana. It is about public high school teacher Lorena (Assunta) who falls in love with the town magnate's son Julian (Jomari) but is abducted and abused by a gang of unidentified men on the night before their wedding. Lorena struggles to win back Julian's love as she fight for justice. The show also features the comeback performance of Jao Mapa, as well as Rustom Padilla, Jeffrey Quizon, Jake Roxas, Melanie Marquez, and many others.

PLAYERS AS MODELS
La Salle Green Archers (from left) Ryan Arana, Allen Gatchalian and PJ Walsham take time out from playing in the UAAP to model Ducks Unlimited shirts. The brand is available at Glorietta 3, Robinsons Galleria and Ermita, SM Cubao, Landmark, Shoppesville, Festival Mall and Crossing Department Store.

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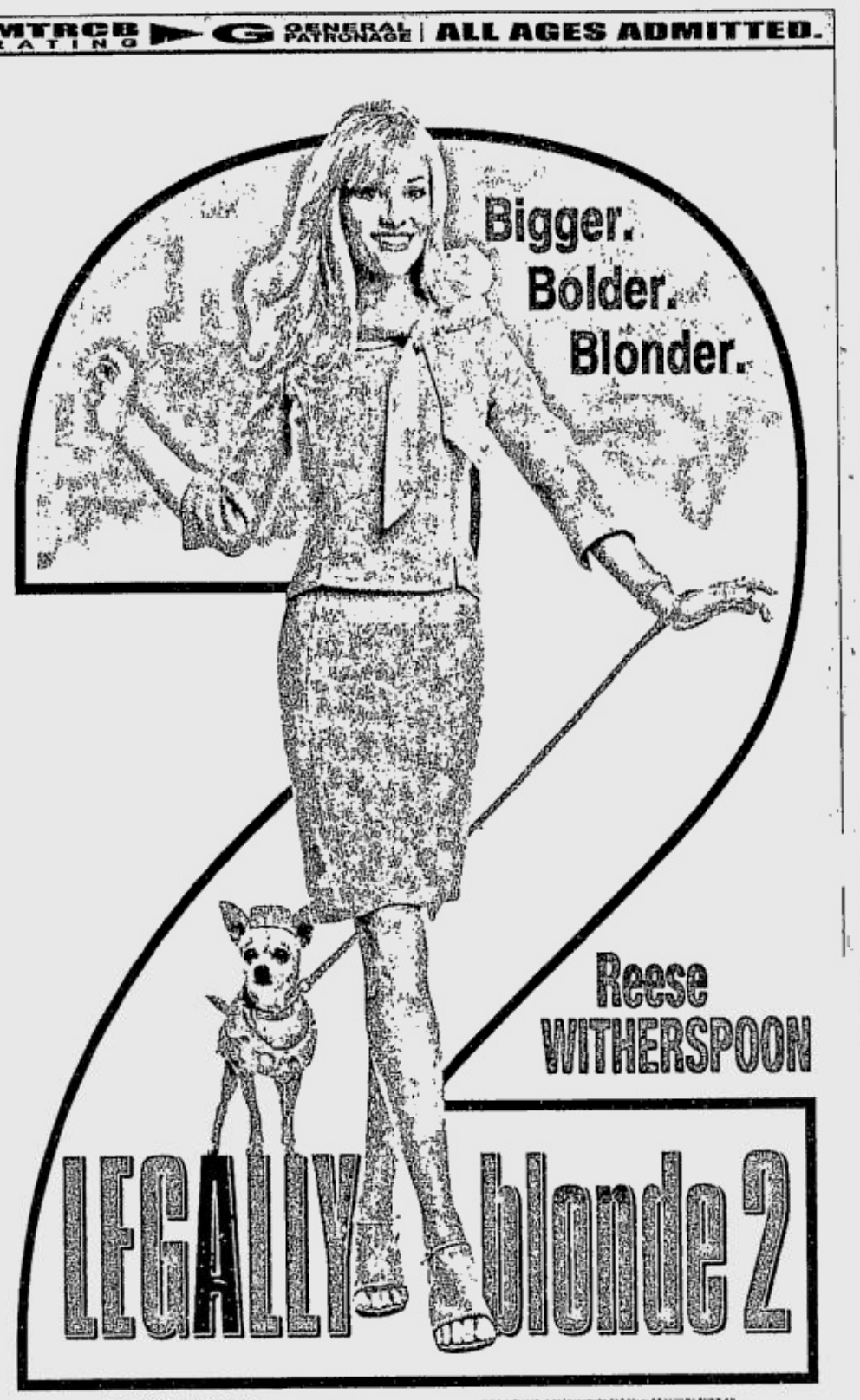

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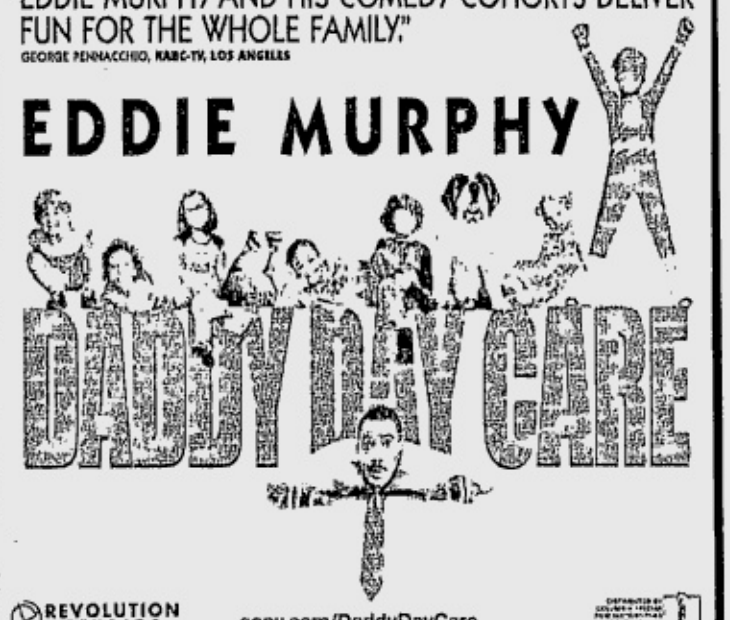

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EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	NENA INOCENTE
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	NENA INOCENTE
B	SNAKE LADY
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

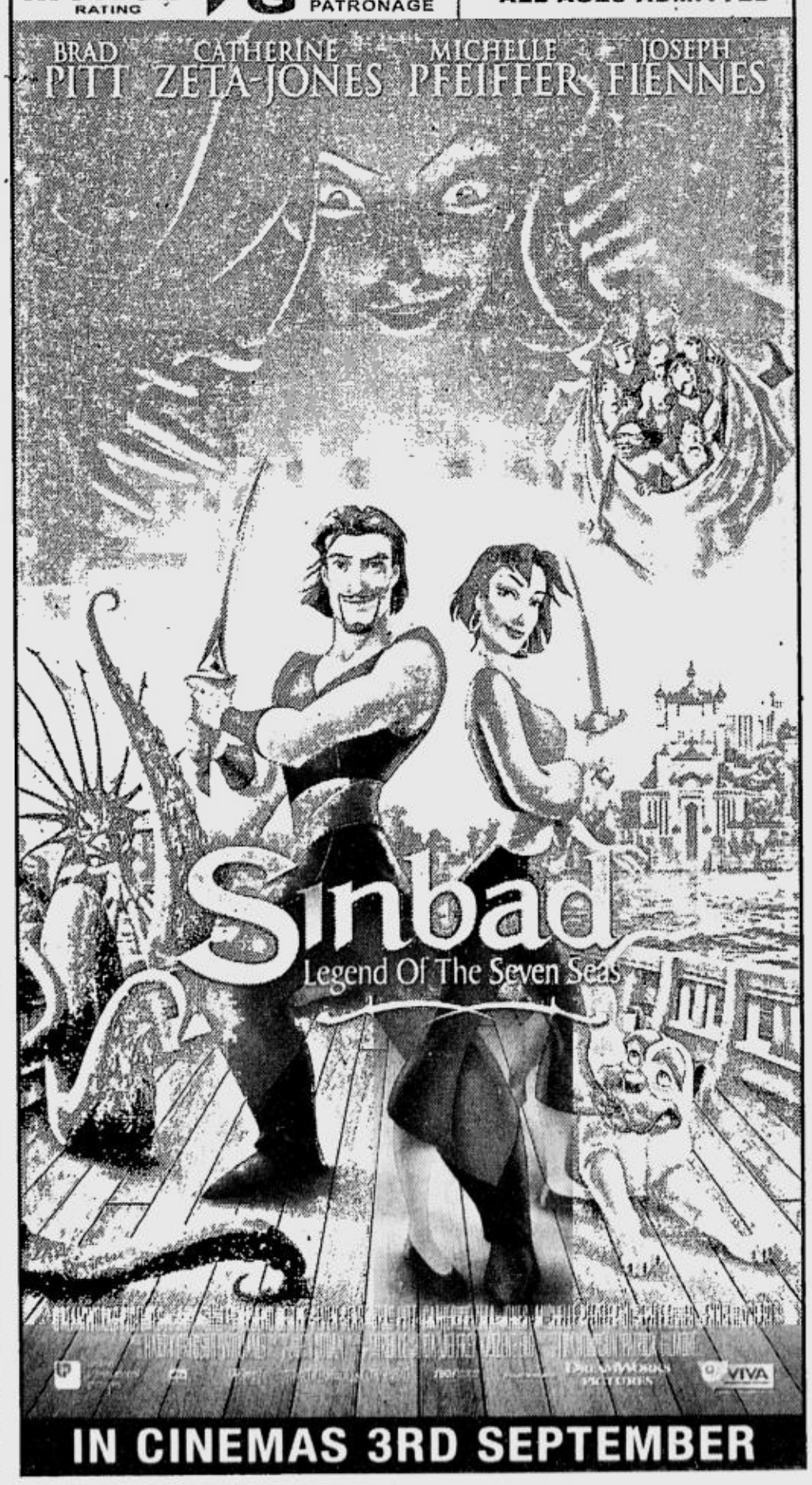
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	NOON AT NGAYON
CINEMA-2	NENA INOCENTE
CINEMA-3	LXG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-6	ALEX & EMMA
CINEMA-7	KEKA
CINEMA-8	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ITALIAN JOB
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SPY KIDS 3D
CINEMA-12	WAKING UP IN RENO
CINEMA-14	FINDING NEMO
CINEMA-15	VIEW FROM THE TOP

LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

(LAS PINAS)	LAU
CINEMA-1	NOON AT NGAYON
CINEMA-2	IMPOSTOR
CINEMA-4	MOTEL

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

MTRCB RATING G GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ADMITTED



Our apology to the movie going public our movie cannot be shown today due to the delay of the arrival of our negative film from Bombay India where it was processed, rest assured that the movie will be shown soon.

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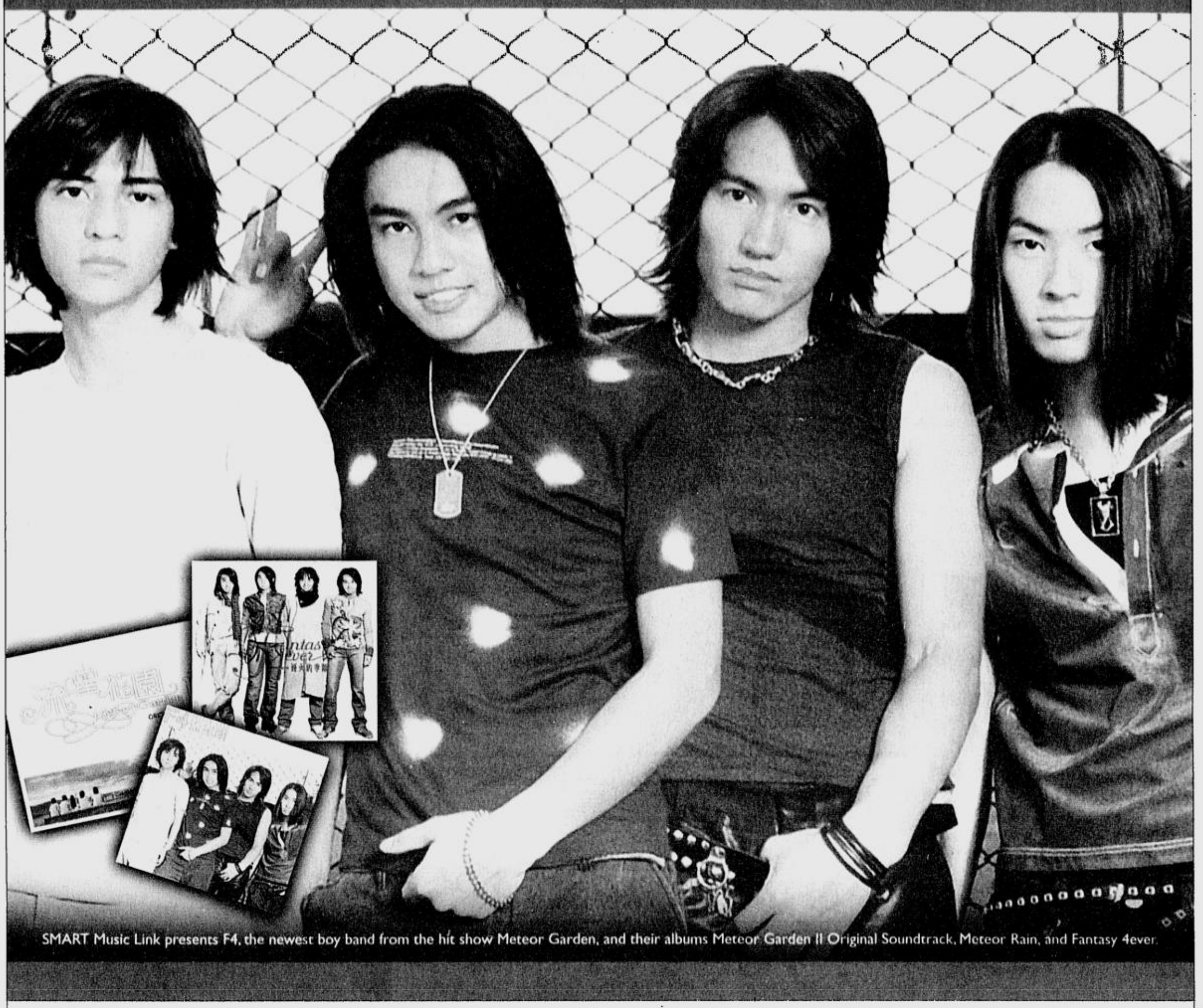

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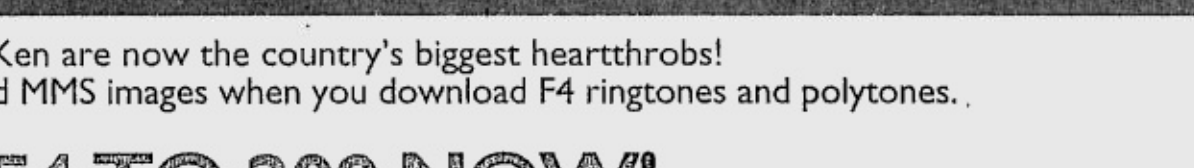
Can't Lose You	CANTLOSEU
Here We Are	HEREWEARE
I Truly Love You	ITRULYLUVU
Lonely Winter	LONELYWINTER
Meteor Rain	METEORAIN
Only I	ONLYI
Season of Fireworks	FIREWORKS
You as a Friend	UASAFRIEND
Show Me Your Love	SHOWMEURLUV
Who Made You Cry	WHOMADEUCRY
All By Myself	ALLBYMYSELF
Broken Vow	BROKENVOW
Can't Help Falling	CANTHELP
The Love You Want	LUVTHATUWANT
Body will Sing	BODYWILLSING
Coz I Love You So	ILOVEYOUSO
Imagine Ten of You	TENOFYOU
Looking for Juliet	FORJULIET
Midnight Movie	MIDNIGHTMOVIE
My friend	MYFRIEND
That Girl	THATGIRL
A Gentle Goodnight	GOODNIGHT
Even Fairy Tales Are Not Good Enough	FAIRYTALES
If It Were Not For Loving You	LOVINGYOU
Love Loves You	LUVLOVESU
Make A Wish	MAKEAWISH

PICTURE MESSAGES

LOGOS



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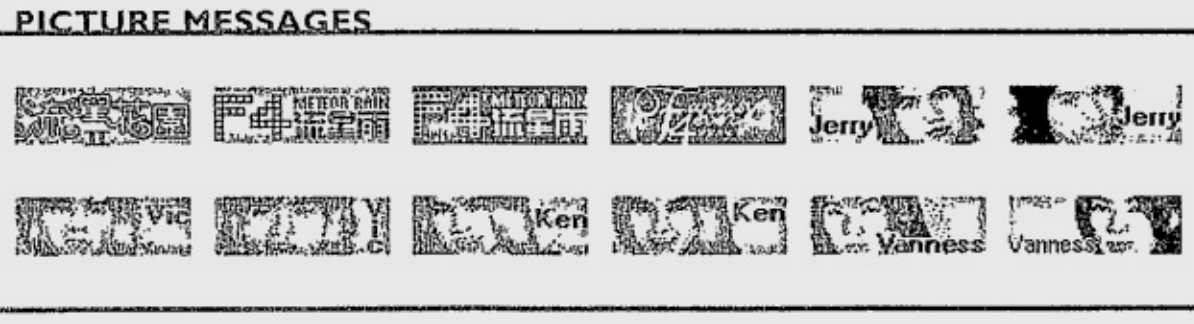

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

Bonding junior Beckhams

By Tammy David

BASKETBALL-CRAZY Philippines may not know it, but for 21 years now, the country has been sending a delegation to three international junior football tournaments in football-mad Europe.

In the process, the Philippines has carved a unique niche in the universe of football as an emerging football powerhouse.

Last July, the Makati Football Club (MFC) marked the 21st year it had been sending a Philippine delegation to the Barcelona Cup in Barcelona, Spain; the Gothia Cup (youth version of the World Cup) in Goteborg, Sweden; and the Sparnord Cup in Aalborg, Denmark.

The anniversary was made especially memorable because in the Denmark event, the 12-year-old Pinoy boys team won second place or silver, losing only to Germany, 2-3, in the final.

Since 1983, MFC founder and president Tomas Lozano has sent over a thousand kids to compete in Europe.

"The opportunity to compete internationally helps young players improve their skills and techniques and ultimately inspires and encourages our players to set goals, develop

BONDING/ D2

THE MAKATI Football Club boys and girls at the opening ceremonies of Gothia Cup. Note suede hats and Viking helmets traded by other countries' teams for the Pinoy kids' native *salakots* or kisses.

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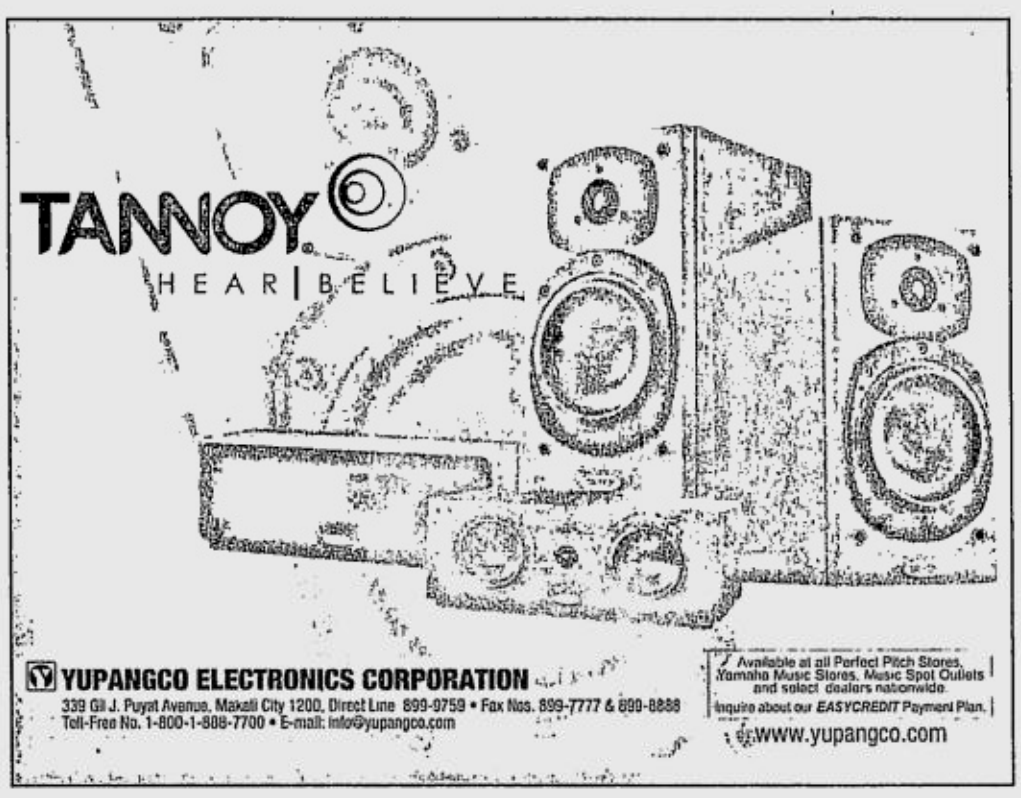

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Sound Clips

TEAM Philippines with their *salakots* receive warm applause and cheers. At the lead of the line: Sam Godinez holding the flag, Amanda Dominguez in *baro't saya*, Gabby Floirendo in Muslim Bukidnon dress—Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao represented!

Bonding junior Beckhams

PHOTOS BY TOMAS LOZANO AND MARGARITA FORES

From page D1

self-confidence, and improve self-motivation," said Lozano.

The MFC was the only delegation from the Philippines. It is composed of 65 players, aged 10-15 years old who mostly come from international and elite schools.

During the opening ceremonies of the Gothia Cup 2003, it was announced to the packed stadium that MFC was the only club outside Europe that had been consistently participating for the past 21 years out of the 29 years the Cup had been existing.

MFC said its consistent participation also owed to the kindness of Filipinos living in Sweden. The families of Ricky Ocampo and Edgar Sagutan, who have been living in Sweden for more than 30 years, would always take a week off from work to help the kids. They would pick them up at the airport, take them to the schools where the kids board (one classroom per team), show them around and give them support during tournaments. Sagutan would sleep in the school to help the coaches.

The recent tour lasted from July 5-27. "The trip is 50-percent football and 50-percent life experience," said Lozano. Throughout the trip, the kids took care of themselves by preparing their own food, budgeting their money, doing their own laundry and taking care of one another. It's no wonder they had a tearful farewell at the airport. The trip had strengthened their bond as a team.

During the recent reunion at the Manila Polo Club, parents and kids candidly recounted their memorable experiences during the trip. "We played against the Swedish giants! They were huge!" said Amanda Dominguez. "And playing when it rained was hard since it was so cold," said Ainara Isasi.

They swapped funny stories such as the importance of McDonalds to kids, the handful of players who were clever enough to pack a loads of instant noodles, the little boy who sprayed his used clothes with Lysol, the older girls taking care of the little boys to the point of cutting their nails, and the smelly luggage when the children got home.

Asked about the greatest reward of the trip, Amado Fores said, "Friendship and the chance to play for our country."

Despite their promise, it is unfortunate that the kids cannot develop further their skills because of the state of football in the country. "We have a wealth of potential players with natural talent," Lozano said. "And I have seen a very good number of really promising players only to vanish because of the lack of a viable long-term program at each age level."

Lozano advised those who wish to join professional football to study well in order to get football scholarships abroad. He also said it was a good thing that the "club system" was picking up here since this had been instrumental in Europe and Latin America to the success of football.

Who knows, in a few years you might see these kids again on your television screen, wearing the country's colors and competing professionally.

The Makati Football Club and Makati Football School train every Wednesday and Friday at Fort Bonifacio, Makati. Boy and girls from 4-18 years old are accepted. Contact telefax at 8247520.

E-mail the author at tammydavid@mydestiny.net

GABRIELLE Floirendo and Samantha Valencia at the opening ceremonies in Sweden

MFC founder and president Tomas Lozano

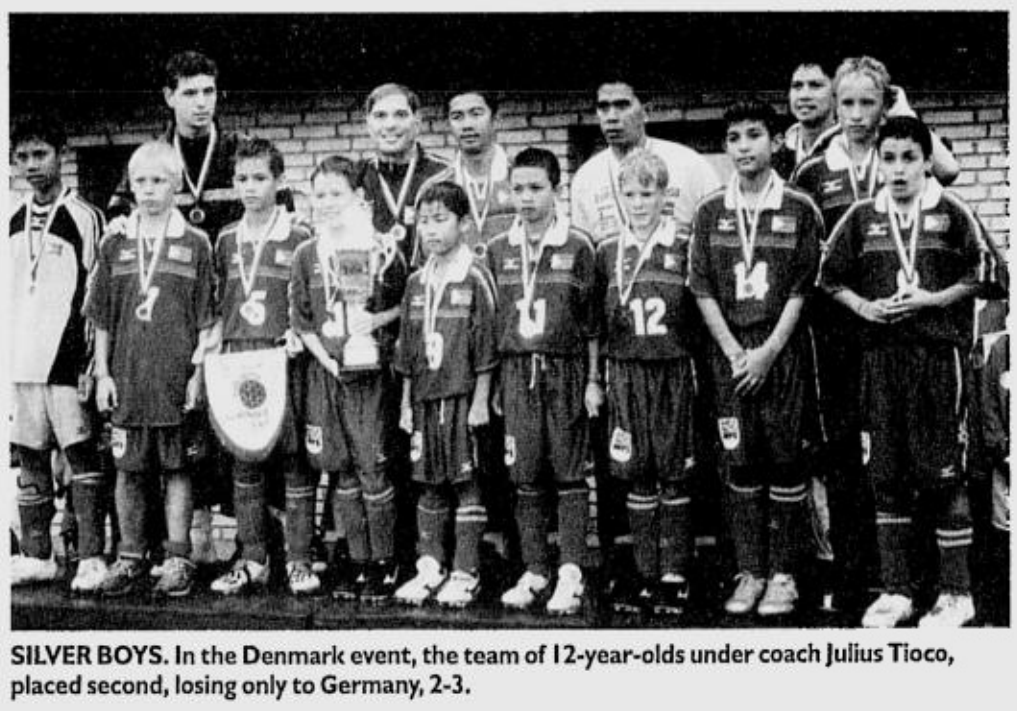
MIGUEL Alegre kisses a Swedish dancer in exchange for a visor.

MOMS at the stand during Gothia opening

MAAN del Carmen against Denmark player during the Sparnord Cup

WEARING the red, white and blue is 12-year -old Cole Smith in the first half of the finals game in Aalborg, Denmark

IN AALBORG, Denmark, after watching a professional match of FC Aalborg vs FC Copenhagen

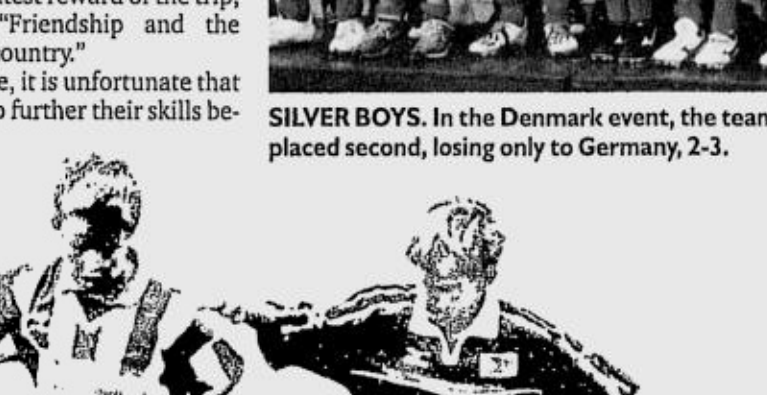


SILVER BOYS. In the Denmark event, the team of 12-year-olds under coach Julius Tioco, placed second, losing only to Germany, 2-3.

In competing again at the Gothia Cup 2003 in Europe, the little giants of Philippine football met goals and new friends

TEARFUL goodbye to teammates upon arrival at NAIA

MAKATI Football Club coaches Julius Tioco, Iñaki Vicente, Diego Batuampo, Hans Smit and Tony Lopez with medic Dave Majam



RELAXING outside school. Carlos Streegan, Sam Godinez, Julian Aboitiz, Rafa Aboitiz, Mara Reina, Alexander Bartholomi, Amado Fores and Gabby Floirendo

Fund-raiser for 'parish without a church'

A THANKSGIVING concert of contemporary Filipino liturgical music, mostly compositions of Fr. Manoling Francisco, SJ, will be held to help the "parish without a church."

Fr. Francisco, composer of "Hindi Kita Malilimutan," is himself helping mount the concert.

Dubbed Pista ng Ating Pasasalamat, the concert will feature Nolyn Cababug, Jet Pangan and May Bayot, a 16-piece chamber group, and a 100-member choir from Ateneo de Manila University and Marikina.

Pista, to be held on Sept. 6 at the Irwin Theater of Ateneo in Loyola, will have a matinee show at 3 p.m. and an evening show at 7 p.m.

The concert is a project of Our Lady of Pentecost Parish, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, to thank parishioners and benefactors who support the parish and contribute to the church's construction fund.

Fr. Francisco has composed a Marian song, "Maria Ina ng Pentekostes," for the parish.

Tickets are priced at P100, P300, P500 for the matinee; and P250, P500 and Pl,000 for the evening show. They are available at the parish office (4342397/9290665), 12 De la Rosa corner Salvador Streets, Loyola Heights, Quezon City and at the office of Ateneo's Jesuit Music Ministry (4261023/4266101 loc. 3425).

Miriam alumni dance for a cause

THE MIRIAM College Chi Rho Champions and the Maryknoll/Miriam College Alumni Association are inviting all alumni to the The Chi Rho Ball, a gala dinner-dance to be held 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 25, at The NBC Tent, Bonifacio Global City.

Alumnae Nina, Pat Castillo and Jackie Magno have been invited to perform during the event, which will be highlighted by a *rigodon de honor*.

Budjing Danao (College '63) choreographs the number to be performed by 24 pairs of Maryknoll/Miriam alumnae, with leading personalities in government, culture and business as partners. Dance music will be provided by Nonoy Lopez.

The Chi Rho Ball is for the benefit of the Miriam College Endowment Fund for Scholarships and Faculty Development and the Marian Auditorium Improvement Project.

The event will also mark the launching of the Seat Program, which will jumpstart the refurbishing of the auditorium and raise more funds for scholarships.

Call Florence Palma at the Miriam College External Affairs Office at 4335337.

Workshop-retreat for women

THE CENTER for Health and Creative Arts (Chacra) will hold "Circle of Stones," a one-day workshop-retreat for women, on Sept. 4 in Quezon City and Sept. 11 in Makati.

Inspired by the book "Circle of Stones: Woman's Journey to Herself" by Judith Duerk, the workshop-retreat makes use of silent journaling, heart-centered listening, action steps to wholeness and other inner processes leading to wise womanhood.

Workshop facilitator Didi Belardo has MA degrees in Spiritual Psychology and Counseling Psychology from the University of Santa Monica in Los Angeles. A student of teacher and author Lynn Andews, her work bridges ancient wisdom with modern life.

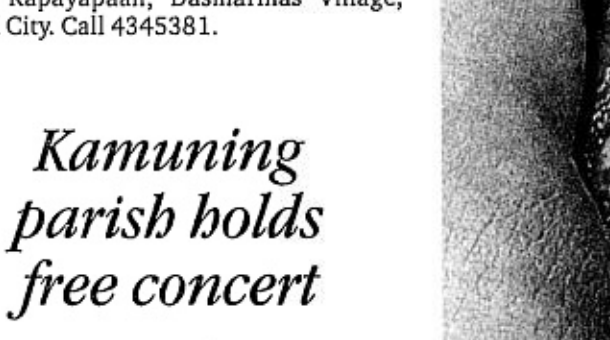
The Sept. 4 workshop will be held at the Good Shepherd Convent, Aurora Blvd., Quezon City, and the Sept. 11 workshop at Bahay Kapayapaan, Dasmariñas Village, Makati City. Call 4345381.

Kamuning parish holds free concert

THE SACRED Heart of Jesus Parish-Kamuning has recently built its new altar and sanctuary.

In a letter to the parish's benefactors and volunteers, parish priest Fr. Manuel Bongayan, SVD, notes the impact of the completed altar project: "Through our unity and solidarity as the People of God in Kamuning, we are now able to even more deeply and expressively adore, praise and give thanks to God every time we celebrate liturgy in general and the Holy Mass in particular."

The parish invites benefactors, volunteers and churchgoers to attend the parish's free concert titled "Mula sa Puso, Salamat Po" on Sept. 8, right after the 6 p.m. Mass.



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Participants may call in and register from Sept. 1-10, 2003. Entries may also be e-mailed to **info@1isa.com.** Deadline for Phone-in Enrolment of entries is on Sept. 10, 2003, 11:59 pm.

This is not an extension. Those who previously registered need not call again. Only purchases made during the promo period of May 16 to August 15, 2003 will be honored. Raffle draw date will now be held on Sept. 12, 2003, 2 pm at MasterCard International Office, Rm 904 Tower One & Exchange Plaza, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

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BANNON-ZUBIRI NUPTIALS

This great Scott has found his beatitude

Scott and Bea were dot.com geeks who found love in each other's arms—and terminals

A KISS is still a kiss: Bea Zubiri and Scott Bannon

Texy by Maurice Arcache
Photos by Alex Van Hagen on Kodak Max

THE BRILLIANT but low-profile miss with the four Bs (beauty, brains, breeding and bucks), Beatrice "Bea" Zubiri, had been living in San Francisco, California and had resigned herself to the near-fact that finding true love was impossible. She had been happy with her simple life and her booming career as a graphic designer—until love found her.

Bea's friend, Cara Subijano, the tall and attractive former wife of handsome Hans Montenegro, introduced her to computer whiz Matthew "Scott" Bannon. He was, without a doubt, Bea's match. They soon became the prince and princess of Frisco's computer world.

To top it all, *palanggas*, Bea had dreamed of marrying a man named Matthew, would you believe? So she was shocked to learn that Matthew was Scott's baptismal name. She found herself falling in love with him.

Completely enamored by Bea's girlish charms, Scott took Bea on a vacation last summer in Paris, the city of romance. There, on top of the Eiffel Tower, he proposed marriage.

Ten months later, or three weeks ago, they exchanged vows. It was a romantic, beautiful summer wedding. They smiled and felt the cool breeze, the glow of a full moon, and the best wishes of kin and friends coming from all over.

Held in a quaint church, the Our Lady of Angels at the Hillside Drive in Burlingame, California, the wedding was simple yet emotional. As the bride walked down the aisle in

THIS/ E2

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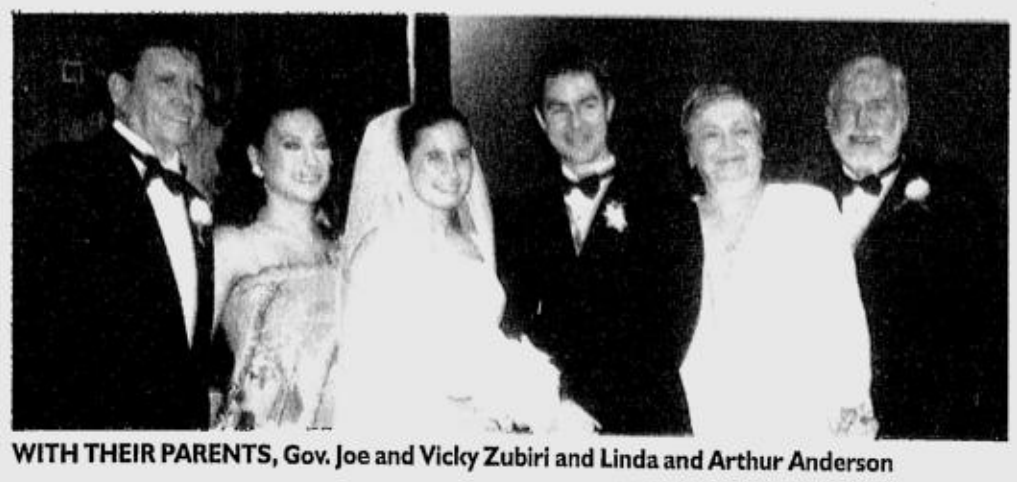

WITH THEIR PARENTS, Gov. Joe and Vicky Zubiri and Linda and Arthur Anderson

SOCIALITE Marybeth Lopez de Leon and sister Vicky Lopez Tuason

THE ZUBIRI boys. Manuel, Gov. Joe, Rep. Miguel and Joey

EYECATCHING beauties. Cara Subijano, maid of honor Stephanie Zubiri, Lisa Palanca, Kristin Haley, Tricia Garcia, Ina Chiongbian and Katie Bannon

LUIGI Villanueva and Valerie McCoy with Bea and her former steady, Raffy Ladao

This great *Scott* has found his *beatitude*

From page E1

the arms of her father, Bukidnon governor Joe Zubiri, tears rolled down her cheeks (her father was teary-eyed, too). The sight tugged at everyone's heartstrings, and made many of the ladies dab their faces for fear the tears would ruin their makeup, dahlings.

Hilarious

The light and really pleasant ceremony was celebrated by Fr. Harold Snyder, who made everyone laugh when Joey Zubiri and Gabby Concepcion tied the cord around the necks of the couple. Seeing it was a bit too tight, the priest cautioned, "Easy now, this is not a lynching scene, you know." It was hilarious.

Bea was pretty as a picture, radiant in her simple yet tasteful gown made by none other than her own mother, ultra-glamorous Vicky Fernandez-Zubiri. All of the bridesmaids looked stunning in their orange and mandarin outfits.

The guests enjoyed the sparkling late afternoon sun and the wonderful array of fresh flowers by Pico Soriano. Reception was held at the Kohl Mansion where the harp and violin were played during cocktails. It was like a scene out of "Pride and Prejudice."

Naturellement, *palanggas*, the guests were served a delicious dinner, particularly the fillet mignon of sea bass, superbly catered by the renowned Swiss-German Klaus Wenhres group. The rich and yummy dessert included sumptuous chocolate-dipped strawberries. The wedding cake was actually edible!

Unlike in most weddings where the guests never even bother to taste the cake, here, they demanded to have a bite of the delicious three-tiered chocolate-and-butter cake created by one of the bride's best pals, Lisa Palanca, who was a bridesmaid.

The newlyweds, who did a slow romantic dance to the tune of "I'll Always Love You" to open the dancing. The bride's father approached them, wanting to cut in to dance with his daughter, but Scott protested, "Oh no, not yet. You've had her all her life, it's now my turn."

It was an elegant celebration where the glow was not from gaudy disco lights but from the smiles that radiated from family and friends. The guests came all the way from Manille, New York, Texas, Los Angeles and Oregon. Only the 150 truly dear ones were present to witness the beginning of a new chapter in a running fairy tale.

It was truly the beginning of their new life together. They later witnessed a beautiful sunset in Hawaii, where they spent their honeymoon.

Here's to health, wealth and all the happiness that Bea and Scott Bannon deserve.

Cheers, *palanggas*!

BANNON BOYS. The couple with the groom's brothers Rory, Gersit and David

PALS of the couple. Michael and Melissa Duarte with Kevin Mooney and Daizy Zapp

COMPUTER whiz kids. Mary Barby and Chris Kaspar with Courtney and husband Andrew Penick

BEAUTIFUL twosome. Stunning beauty Vanessa Perez Rubio with her constant escort David Littlefield

SAN Francisco's popular couple Risa Tapales with her husband, ABS-CBN's Raffy Lopez

KIM Anderson with her steady man, Rory Bannon

SAN Fran pals: Joelu Alvarez and Rosemarie Fernandez

MANILA'S loss, America's gain: Mirellie Tolentino, Martin Mari, Mariel Cacho Tolentino, Reesa and Basti Artadi

I'LL have champagne. Rebecca Dodds and Franchesca Golez

THE TAMBUNTINGS. Young business achiever Ping Alfonso, Margie Ansaldo with her husband Ambassador Chuching Tambunting, and their daughter Vic-Vic Tambunting Alfonso

THE GANG of San Fran: Marcial del Rosario, Tetet Villanueva and Tisha Kahl

JOHNNY Velasquez

AL Tengco

PEPE Pimentel

CARLA Reyes Tengco

IT'S PARTY time. Lorna Galang, Annabelle Bautista and Gig Fernandez

I'M YOURS FOREVER, Scott vows to his pretty bride Bea.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday LIFESTYLE

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

VILLANUEVA DEBUT

Sheilla Marie Villanueva, a BS-BA sophomore and an Oblation Scholar at UP Diliman, will celebrate her 18th birthday at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel on Sept. 14. She is the daughter of **Rodolfo** and **Lina Villanueva.**

Sheilla will wear a gold and magenta gown designed by **Ernest Santos**, who will also coordinate the event.

CONSUELO-OSORIO

Ma. Criselda P. Osorio, daughter of **Chito** and **Nanette Osorio,** and **Gilmore M. Consuelo,** son of **Gil** and **Mila Consuelo,** exchanged marriage vows at the Shrine of Jesus the Way, the Truth and the Life, Central Business Park, Pasay City recently. Reception followed at the Philippine Army Officer's Club, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

The bride's wedding gown, as well as those of the entourage, was designed by **Gino Fernando.**

LIM DEBUT

Maries Eula Lim, daughter of **Mario** and **Laura Lim**, celebrated her 18th birthday on Aug. 23 at her aunt's residence in Sta. Ana, Manila. She wore a two-piece Indian-inspired gown. **Junel Lim Gallon** designed the gowns, accessories and the decór of the reception.

GACER-NUNEZ

Norberto B. Gacer, son of **Romeo** and **Corazon Gacer,** recently tied the knot with **Sienna Mari G. Nunez,** daughter of **Santiago** and **Rachel Nunez,** at San Agustin Church in Intramuros. Reception followed at Quezon Ballroom, Sulo Hotel, QC.

The bride wore a gown designed by **Claro Sy.**

FERNANDEZ-MONZON

Nilo Fernandez and **Nimfa Monzon** recently announced their engagement and upcoming wedding in September.

PE BENITO DEBUT

Marisse C. Pe Benito, daughter of **Juvy** and **Gina Pe Benito,** will celebrate her 18th birthday on Sept. 13 at Mandarin Oriental Manila, Makati City. She will wear a **Paul Cabral** creation.

Marisse is a nursing freshman at St. Paul College, QC.

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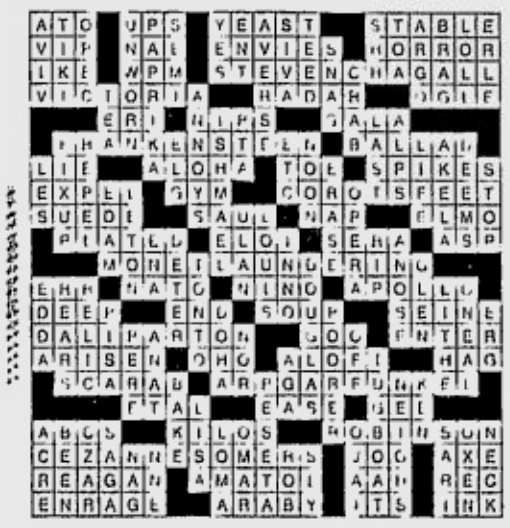

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Beautiful	*Snoop Dogg Feat. Pharrel*	**TONE BEAUTI**
Broken Vow	*Lara Fabian*	**TONE BROKEN**
Can't Lose You	*F4*	**TONE CANTLOSE**
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Faint	*Linkin Park*	**TONE FAINT**
Foolish Heart	*Nina*	**TONE FOOLISH**
Get Busy	*Sean Paul*	**TONE GETBUSY**
Gimme The Light	*Sean Paul*	**TONE GIMME**
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Have You Ever	*S Club 7*	**TONE HAVEU**
I Know What You Want	*Busta Rhymes And Mariah*	**TONE IKNOWAT**
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In Da Club	*50 Cent*	**TONE INDACLUB**
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My Immortal	*Evanescence*	**TONE IMMORTAL**
One Kiss	*B2K*	**TONE ONEKISS**
Real	*Plumb*	**TONE REAL**
So Into You	*Fabolous And Ashanti*	**TONE INTOU**
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Stuck	*Stacie Orrico*	**TONE STUCK**
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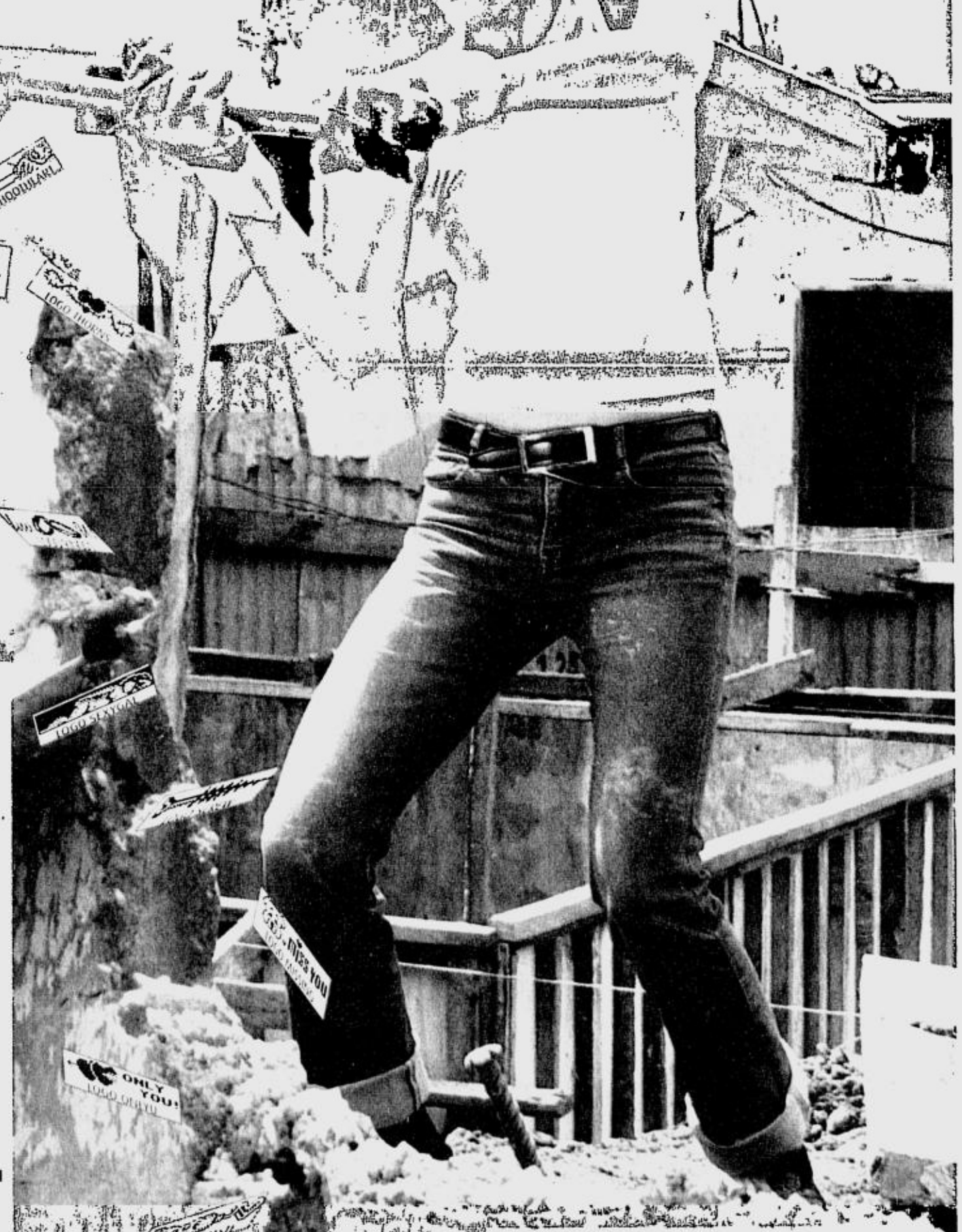

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday LIFESTYLE

School for the poor a 'symbol of hope'

Successful alumni fondly recall how Pampanga's Assumpta Technical High School put them on the road to a better life

By Cheche V. Moral

"YOU should count your blessings, then give your best [in whatever you do]," says Fr. Manny Sta. Maria.

The son of a poor farmer in San Simon, Pampanga, Sta. Maria is just one of many underprivileged individuals whose lives were dramatically changed by a singular act of kindness. Thus, he knows what he is preaching about.

He was among the first batch of graduates of San Simon's Assumpta Technical High School (ATHS) who went on to get a college education and consequently improved their lives.

ATHS was established in 1970 by the Mother Rosa Memorial Foundation (MRMF) to provide free high school education to the town's poor but deserving students. It was the first technical high school in the Philippines that granted not only exceptional academic and Catholic instruction, but also specialized in agriculture, animal husbandry, carpentry, electronics, sewing and tailoring, food trade and entrepreneurship.

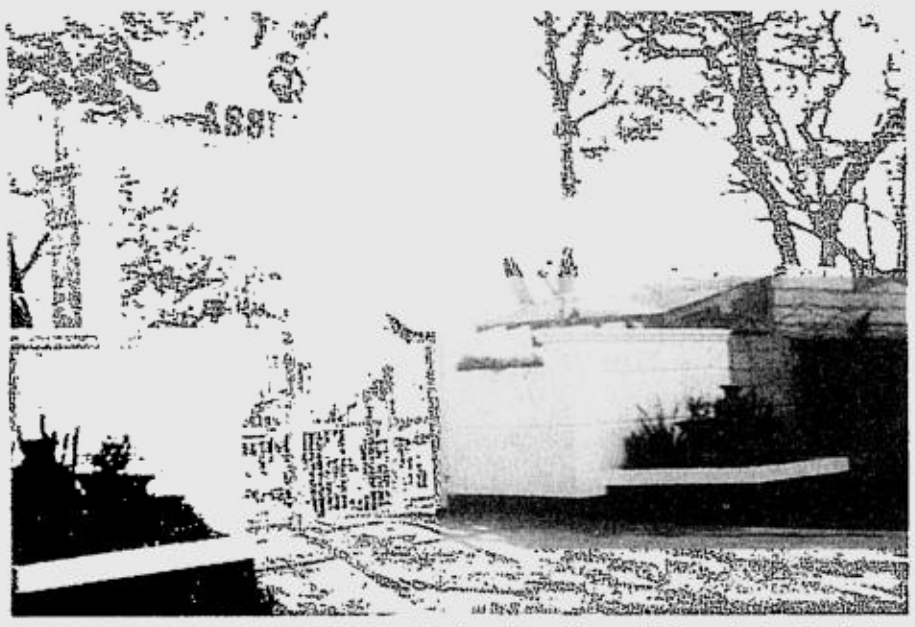
"The foundation's aim was to provide the students not only with practical skills to contribute to their family's income, but also equip them academically for college education," says Rosalie Henson Naguiat, MRMF president.

Its goal was to "develop the total person" by educating the head (academics), the heart (Christian values) and the hands (technical skills).

For the poor

MRMF was founded in 1965 in honor of Mother Rosa of the Religious of the Assumption (RA) who died that year.

PIONEERS. ATHS Class '74, the first batch to graduate after the school's founding in 1970, relives high school when it celebrated its silver jubilee in 1999. On Sept. 7, the Mother Rosa Memorial Foundation, which finances the school, will hold the Merry Merchants Bazaar and Raffle at the Hotel InterContinental to raise funds for its continuous effort to provide free education to the underprivileged.



MOLDING "TOTAL" PERSONS. The Mother Rosa Memorial Foundation-funded Assumpta Technical High School in Barrio Sta. Monica, San Simon, Pampanga, which provides free education to poor but bright students of San Simon and the neighboring towns of Apalit and Minalin

The French nun spent 63 years of her life to the education of Filipino youth. The foundation, aimed at benefiting the poor, is governed by Assumption alumnae and RA friends.

While the first ATHS batch paid absolutely nothing, students now have to pay a monthly token fee.

"Some of the families have improved their economic conditions," explains Mariane Magsaysay Pratte, MRMF treasurer, "so under the socialized tuition fee scheme, the amount of fee for each student is determined."

Chit Manlapaz, ATHS Batch '77 and a teacher at the school, says each student requires P16,000 annually. Today, some pay as much as P500 a month or about half the entire tuition. "Six students are now paying the full tuition," she adds.

But even then, Naguiat says it is still a challenge to meet the amount needed to sustain the school's annual expenses, especially with over 500 students.

Relying primarily on funding from private and corporate donors and some government subsidy, MRMF has had to come up with income-generating projects to augment its funds.

On Sept. 7, MRMF, with two other foundations, will hold the Merry Merchants Bazaar and Raffle at the Hotel Inter-Continental. In November, it will launch a new line from its business arm, Linya Zita, the furniture company that was donated by the family of the late Assumption alumna Zita Magallanes. Linya Zita was put up to partially finance ATHS.

Persistence

"In my time," says Francisca de Jesus Lim, "we didn't pay any fee at all. We even had free snacks like milk, which were donations."

Lim belonged to Class '74, the first batch to graduate. Then living with her family in the neighboring town of Apalit, she got excited when she learned about the school from her cousins in San Simon.

"It was hard to get in because I was a transferee, but I was persistent," she says.

The fourth of seven children, Lim's free education would become a great help to her family, which relied solely on her father's salary as a waiter and her

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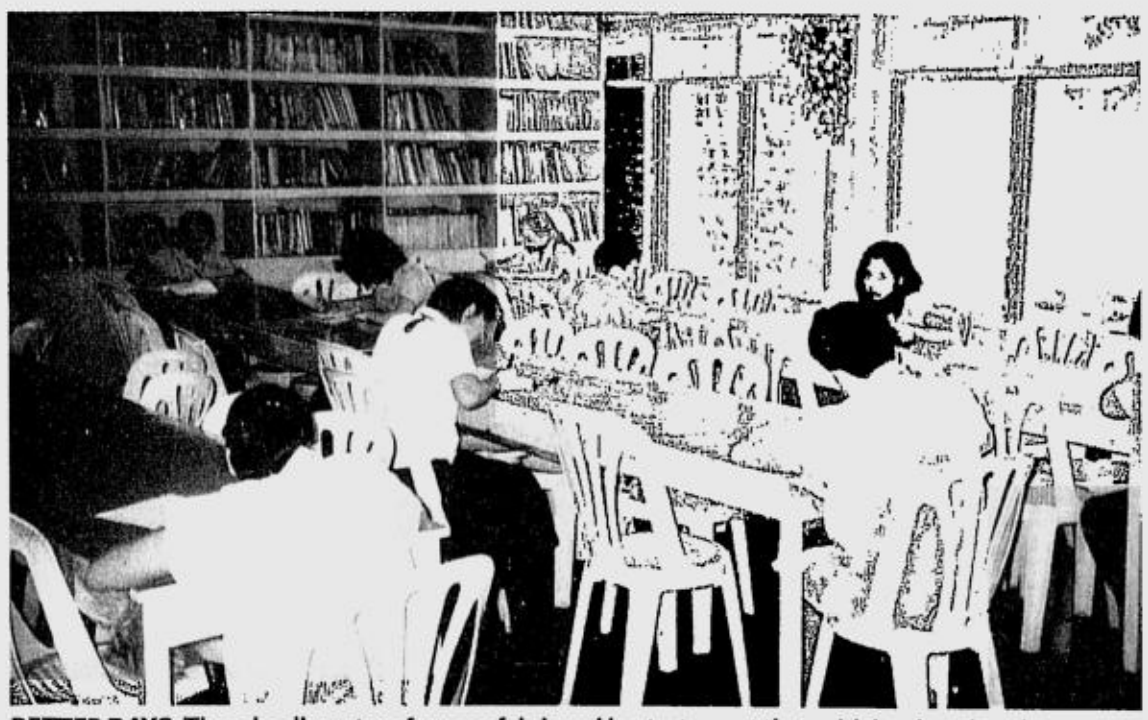
TEACHING the head, heart, hands. **ATHS** not only provides solid academic and Christian values formation, but also teaches practical and technical skills that are useful even to this day, say its graduates.



BETTER DAYS. The school's roster of successful alumni is a testament that, with hard work and determination, no hardship is insurmountable.

School for the poor a 'symbol of hope'

From page F1

mother's occasional dressmaking jobs.

"I knew I was qualified so I persisted," she says, "because that's what you do if you really want something."

She would hitch rides to get to and from school until she graduated—with honors. The daily walk to and from Bo. Sta. Monica, where ATHS is located, was long and often lonely, "but I got used to it. I wanted to finish school," Lim says.

As it turned out, she wasn't the only one with this persevering and unrelenting spirit. "Some of my classmates were so poor they went to school barefoot... Now they are well-off," she notes.

Lim now works as an assistant manager for an insurance brokerage firm in Makati. Her boss, Leonel Mercado, is also an ATHS alumnus. And her best friend, Elenita Bacani Jose, was Batch '74's class valedictorian. Like her, Jose earned her degree from the Far Eastern University and is now a teacher in Malabon.

Measly

In its early years, ATHS was fully run and administered by the Assumption nuns. "Now it is autonomous [from Assumption] and is run mostly by ATHS graduates," says Pratte.

The faculty is made up of 52 percent of ATHS graduates. "Our hope is for ATHS to become fully self-sufficient in the future," she adds.

Former San Simon Mayor Azor Sitchon fondly recalls how each one in his batch paid a measly P4 a month in 1976.

"Others even paid in kind, like chicken [or] vegetables," he says.

("But when you were in the Top 10," explains Sta. Maria, "the school would refund the P40 you paid for the entire year.")

Sitchon is the eldest of four siblings, all of whom attended ATHS. Their youngest, Melchor, is now a priest.

"My father was an ordinary worker in Pampanga," says Sitchon. "It was only when I went to college that he got to work in Saudi Arabia as an overseas contract worker."

He studied at the Ateneo and San Sebastian College and is now the Department of Agrarian Reform's director for special concerns in Pampanga.

Assumpta was a symbol of hope for the people of San Simon, he says. "It opened doors to opportunities."

This was true as well for Manolito Tayag. A farmer's son, he proved to be a brilliant student, eventually earning a management engineering degree at the Ateneo de Manila University on a full scholarship.

"It was an honor to be an Assumptan," he says. "It was very competitive [to get in]."

Tayag is now an associate partner of Accenture, a multinational IT firm.

Values

But more than the opportunities and success afforded by his Assumpta education, Tayag extols the values instilled in them by the nuns.

AGRARIAN Reform director Azor Sitchon (Batch '76), the first **ATHS** alumnus to become mayor of San Simon, Pampanga

MRMF president Rosalie Henson Naguiat (Assumpta HS '67)

FR. Manny Sta. Maria, "activist" priest of San Fernando, Pampanga, belongs to **ATHS** '77.

MRMF treasurer Mariane Magsaysay Pratte (Assumpta HS '72)

ROMY HOMILLADA

"Many in our class are successful," he says of Batch '78 (this year's Silver Jubilarians), "and some of us work with the government, but no one is corrupt."

They were taught leadership, adds Sta. Maria. "The sisters made us aware of social issues, [to know things that were] relevant to the times."

The UST Central Seminary alumnus is known in the San Fernando area for his controversial homilies that often touch on political issues.

But while he calls himself an activist, Sta. Maria is also much admired for his benevolence. Whenever he says Mass in San Simon, he doesn't take his stipend, and instead asks to have it donated to his alma mater. In San Fernando, he also had a place built for retired priests.

"Assumpta was where we learned the values in life," says Lim. "It is true that you could rise up from your humble beginnings, no matter how hard."

To date, ATHS has graduated over 3,000 students. That they had to put in long hours—from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day—not only for academics but also for vocational courses was more of a challenge than a difficulty, says Tayag.

"Nothing beats hard work [in surmounting the odds]," he says. And that's one thing every determined Assumptan knows.

Call Mila de Jesus of the Mother Rosa Memorial Foundation at 8925808.

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

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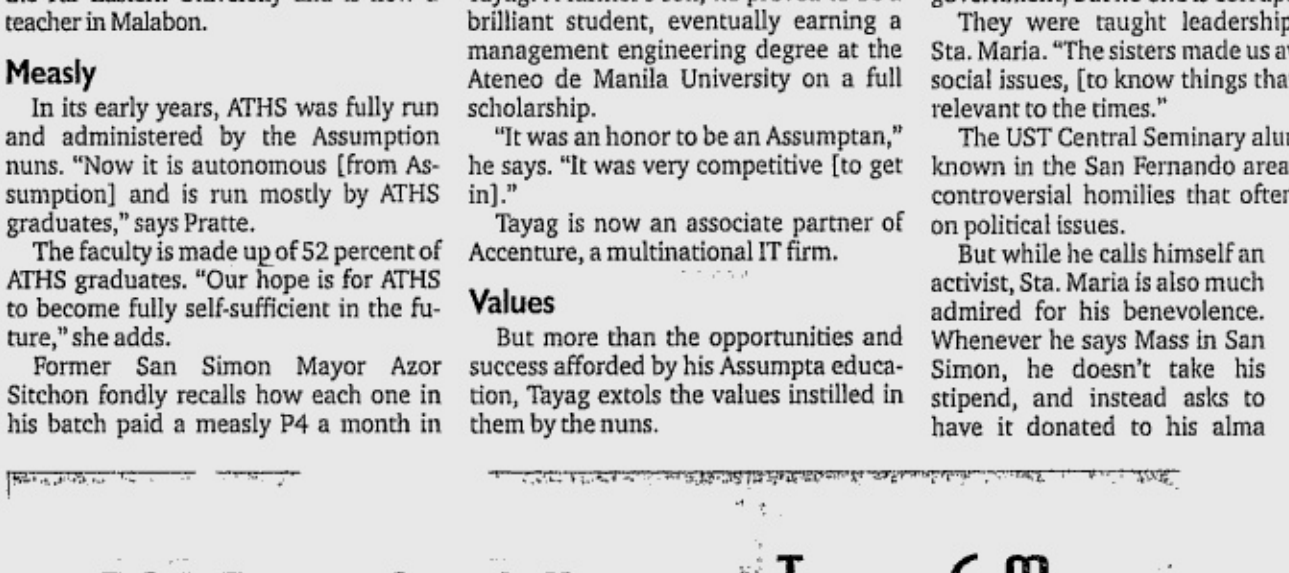

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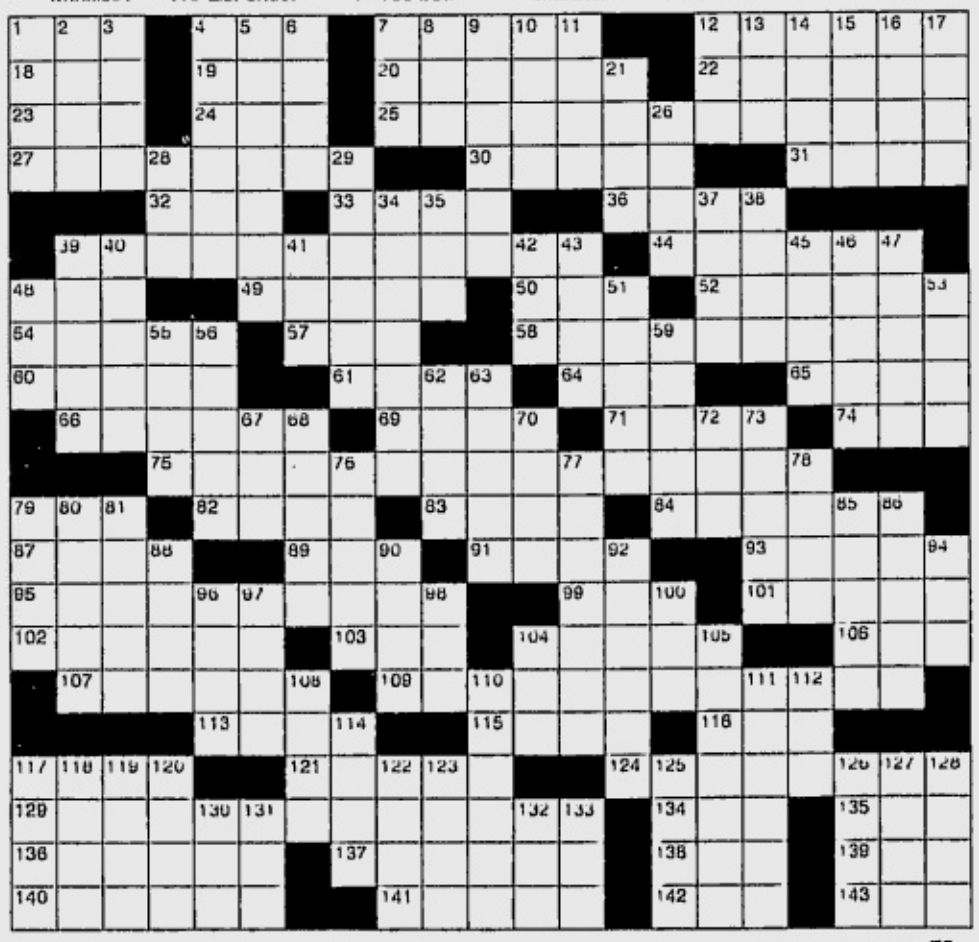
ACROSS
1 From — Z
4 Shipping co.
7 It makes rye high
12 Hackney's home
18 Bigwig
19 Dundee denial
20 Turns green?
22 King's thing
23 He was liked in '56
24 Typist's stat
25 Martial artist?
27 Albert's wife
30 Tracking tool
31 Inspect too closely?
32 "— tu" (Verdi aria)
33 Swigs
36 Festive
39 Monstrous artist?
44 Sentimental song
48 Tell it like it isn't
49 Honolulu hello
50 Low digit
52 Track shoes
54 Kick out
57 Room for improvement?
58 Artist's wrinkles?
60 "Blue — Shoes" ('56 hit)
61 Novelist Bellow
64 Doze
65 Admiral Zumwalt
66 Like a stegosaurus
69 Morlocks' prey
71 Doris Day refrain
74 Nile slitherer
75 Artist's crime?
79 Goof
82 W. alliance
83 Tempo or Rota
84 Artemis' brother
87 Word with fry or freeze
89 Finish
91 Cold food?
93 Notre Dame's river
95 C&W artist?
99 Moo — gai pan
101 Come in
102 Out of bed
103 "Now I've got you!"
104 Overhead
105 Crone
107 Amulet motif
109 Folksinging artist?
113 List ender
115 Vacation sensation
116 "Well, I'll be!"
117 Basics
121 Metric measures
124 Singer Smokey
129 Thighmaster artist?
134 Run for one's life?
135 Chopping tool
136 Acting president?
137 Explosive mixture
138 Contented sigh
139 — room
140 Infuriate
141 Sheik site
142 "— My Party" ('63 hit)
143 Squid's squirt

DOWN
1 Tel —
2 Heyerdahl's "Kon- —"
3 Crude cartel
4 Like ugly clothes?
5 Goulash spice
6 Big rig
7 "You bet!"
8 Tolkien creature
9 Opposed
10 Hindu deity
11 Prepared to drive
12 "Quiet!"
13 — man (everyone)
14 Mythical vessel
15 Improve oneself, in a way
16 Enjoy the weekend
17 Director — C. Kenton
21 Hose mishap
26 Zodiac crustacean
28 Herbal concoction
29 Vexes
34 "Moby-Dick" narrator
35 Child welfare org.
37 Endure
38 "The Sound of Music" setting
39 Repair
40 Shed
41 Actress Taina
42 Relative of 113 Across
43 High time?
45 Animation
46 "The Jungle Book" character
47 Believes
48 Berlioz's "— Troyens"
51 Clear the slate
53 Command at a corner
55 Imported cheese
56 Reveal
59 Beethoven wrote one
62 — Bator
63 "The Brown Bomber"
67 Doe in "Bambi"
68 Prevent
70 — time (quickly)
72 Tear
73 — for news
76 Scout master?
77 "Spartacus" star
78 Singer Campbell
79 Snorri's stories
80 Acts like a stallion
81 Antique
85 Willowy
86 Patrick of "The Stepford Wives"
88 Tower town
90 Qatar's capital
92 Less affluent
94 Unit of work
96 Flaubert's father
97 MD's area
98 Neither's partner
100 Right — the bat
104 Khan opener?
105 "— Annie" ('33 film)
108 Produce a pie
110 Murcia money
111 Colts' cries
112 He's a doll
114 Kudrow or Bonet
117 Farm measure
118 "I've — had!"
119 Petrograd potentate
120 Legend
122 — Linda, CA
123 Baseball's Vizquel
125 California resort
126 Delhi wrap
127 Draft animals
128 Cello part
130 Be a pest
131 Vane dir.
132 Morrow or Reiner
133 Underhanded



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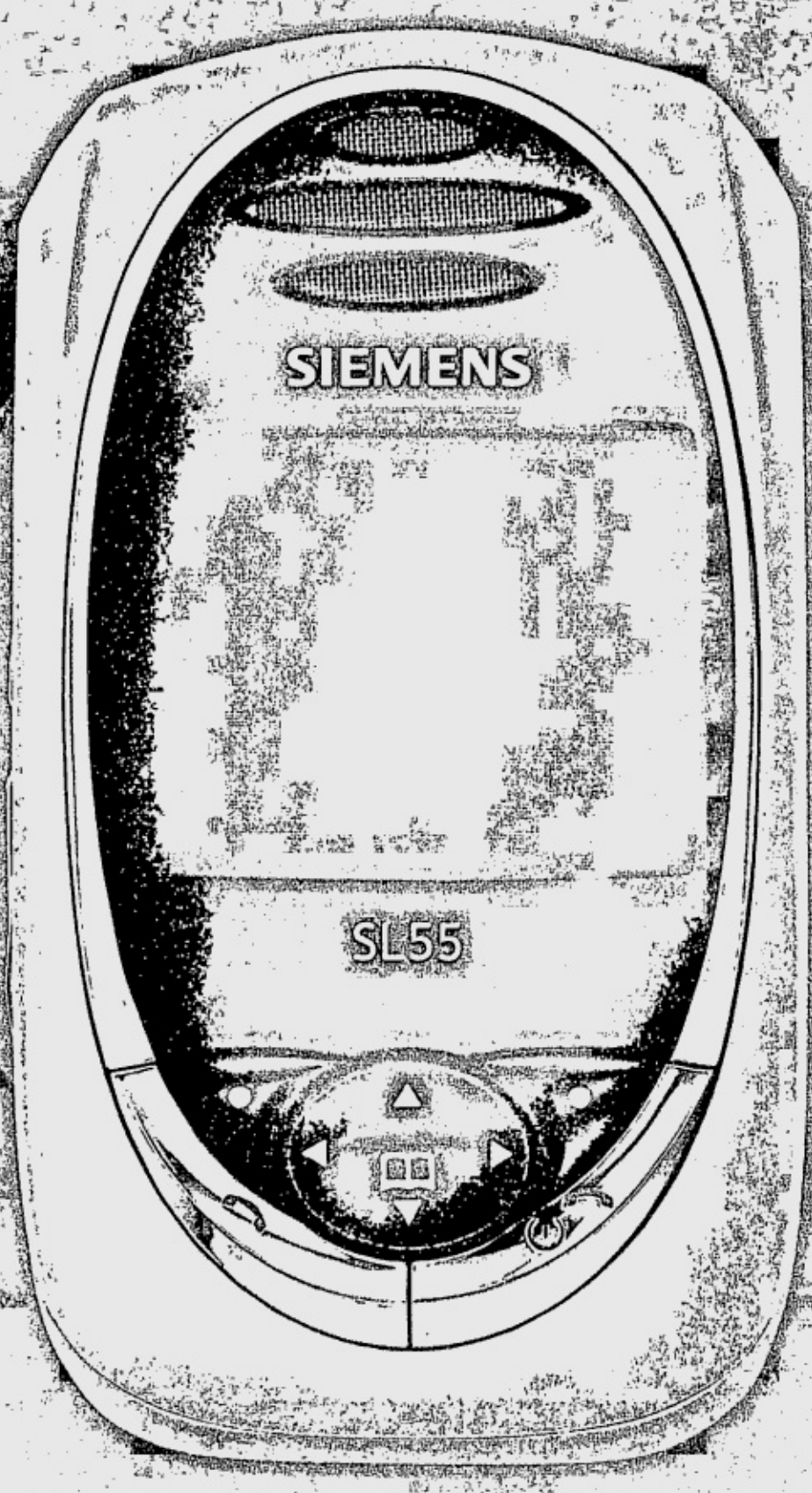

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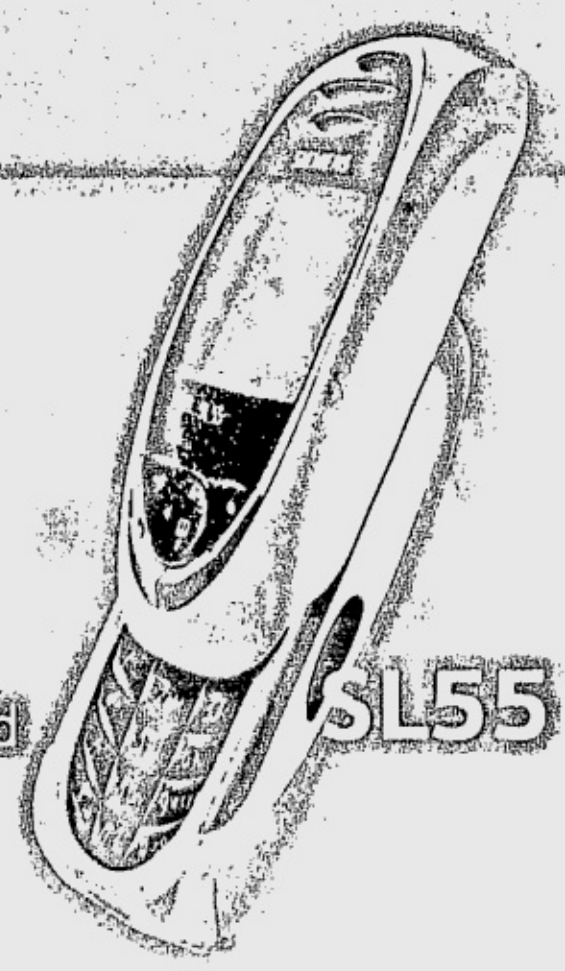

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G/F Galsano Mall, Metro Colon
G/F Galsano Mall, Butuan
2/F Mindpro Mall, Zamboanga
G/F Victoria Plaza, Davao
G/F KCC Mall, Koronadal
G/F Galsano South City Mall, Davao
G/F Fitmart, General Santos

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Award-winning company takes good care of its employees

FAMILIES of Philips employees in front of the Philips-built housing in 1925

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ALTHOUGH well-renowned for its trailblazing products, Royal Philips Electronics is also lauded for providing its employees excellent benefits.

For such commitment, Philips earned a spot in the Asian Wall Street Journal's list of the Best Employers in Asia in 2001.

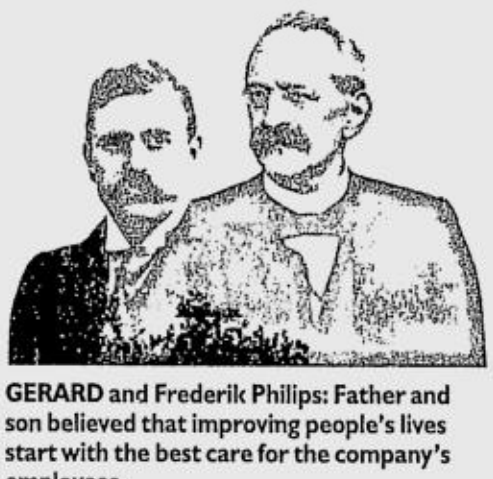
Established as a light-bulb manufacturer in the Netherlands by Anton and Gerard Philips in 1891, Philips gave its employees' benefits unheard of at the time, such as pension, housing, medical care which includes free vaccination, a sports center, elementary and secondary schools and a foundation to finance the older children of employees through college. There was even a full-time bicycle repairman at the factory.

On his recent visit to the Philippines, Philips chief executive officer for the Asia-Pacific region Jan Oosterveld lauded the performance of Philips Philippines, one of the country's biggest companies, for showing that "we can carry on the Philips legacy of innovation and social concern by banking on the dedication, expertise and support of our 5,000 employees."

Philips Philippines has built a strong presence in the divisions of consumer electronics, lighting, domestic appliances, medical systems, PD semiconductors, IC semiconductors and discrete semiconductors.

The team has won awards in various industry competitions. The Philips Semiconductors Philippines Inc. (PSPI) Cabuyao team, for instance, won the top prize in the 2002 Philips Semiconductors Quality Improvement Competition World Finals held in Barcelona, Spain.

The PSPI Calamba team also received the "Vox Populi" award for that year, the same award it won in the previous QIC World Finals in Bangkok, Thailand.



GERARD and Frederik Philips: Father and son believed that improving people's lives start with the best care for the company's employees.

JAN Oosterveld, chief executive officer for Royal Philips Electronics Asia Pacific, during his recent, first-ever visit to the Philippines

THE PHILIPS semiconductors plant in Calamba, Laguna, is a state-of-the-art facility for the assembly and testing of integrated circuits that cater to various applications like connectivity, displays, digital video and storage.

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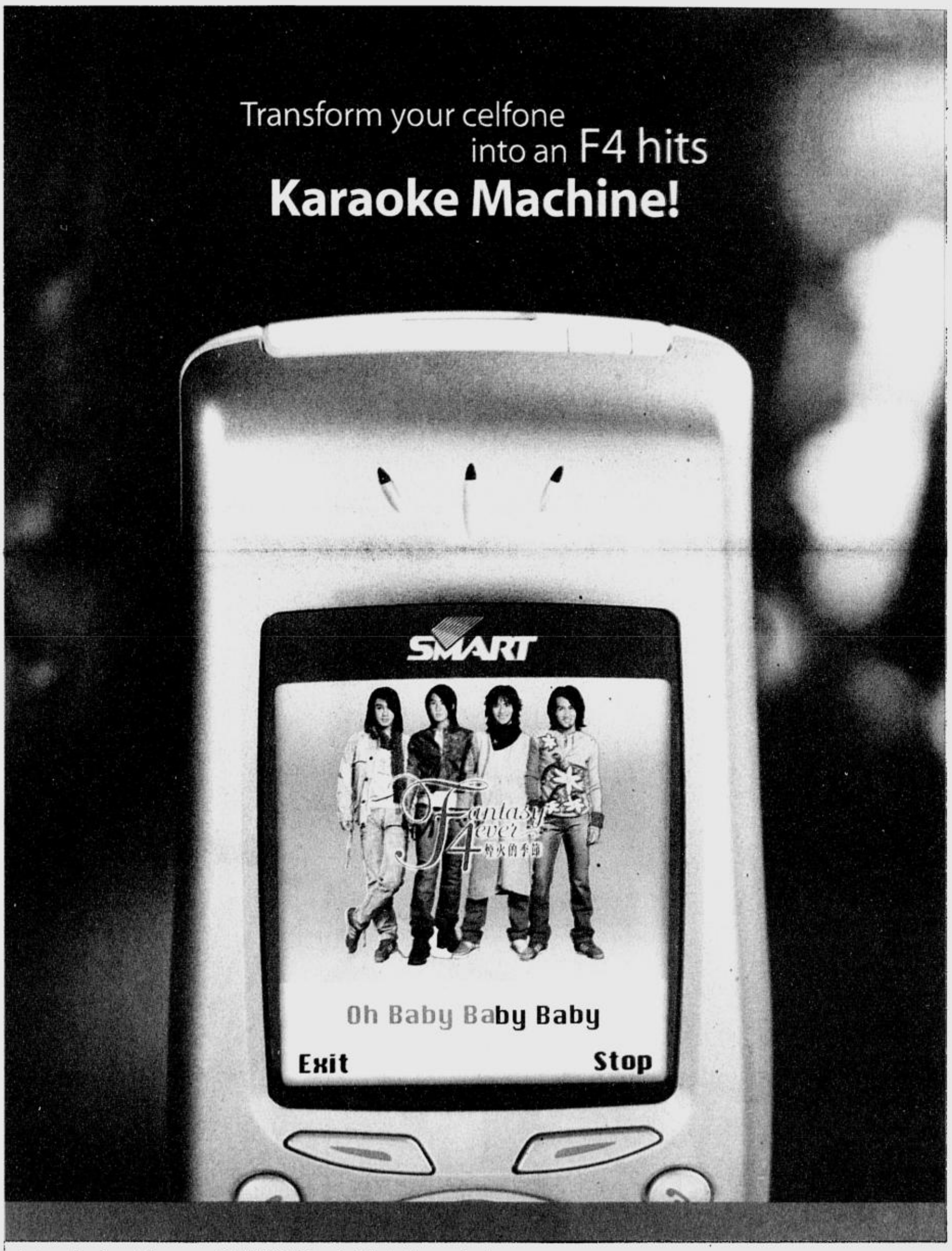

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I Truly Love You	ITRULYLUVU	Ask For More	ASK4MORE

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3230, Series of 2003.

THE PHILIPPINE media group: (from left) Marvi Gil (Cebu Daily News), cameraman Gerardo Galang, Epi Quizon (Channel 9's "Road Trip"), Ronnie Quizon, Jan Te (Cathay Pacific), Berna Aboitiz (Zee Quarterly Cebu), Joseph Cortes (Philippine Star), Kim Gomez (promo winner) with friend Anne Arcenas, the author, cameraman D-boy Trofeo, Marge San Jose (Perceptions, Inc., HKTB's PR consultant in Manila), Noel de la Rosa (aka "Nick Burn" of 99.5 RT), Eric Quizon and Michelle So (Sun Star Cebu)

These days, all masks are off in Hong Kong. SARS seems a distant fog, and people are out in droves

FOOD TRIP. The mammoth ba

In the mood for some big-time lovin'

Text and photos by Gibbs Cadiz

We had landed in Chek Lap Kok airport to see how Hong Kong has rebuilt itself after SARS, a group of Philippine media and trade representatives joining over 3,600 other participants from 26 countries invited by the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) to the launch of a global campaign aimed at reviving positive interest in the Crown Colony.

From the airport en route to our accommodations at the Park Lane Hotel on a drizzly night, we had a magical view of the city: Shadowy hills framing the lights of the skyline below. "A thousand fireworks arrested in midflight," Pico Iyer had once described them.

These days, all masks are off in Hong Kong. SARS seems a distant fog, and people are out in droves. Times Square and its side streets remain a vast shopping park at half-hour before midnight, with mostly young Hong Kongers poking through every brightly lit clothing, jewelry, DVD, makeup or food store advertising a sale.

It's the territory's famous sale season, and for obvious reasons, HKTB had timed this international gathering to urge visitors to explore its fabled shops, get that prized Tag Heuer watch or Gucci bag at two-thirds off the original price and give the retail industry a much-needed shot in the arm.

Our tour would bring us to well-known and less-familiar Hong Kong haunts. A trip to an outlying island, but no Ocean Park. A view of Victoria harbor aboard a helicopter, but no visit to Lantau Island and its giant Buddha.

WHIRLYBIRD'S-EYE VIEW. Hong Kong's famous skyline as seen from a helicopter. The 88-story IFC Building (left) is the tallest structure in the island—also the skyscraper from where Angelina Jolie made her parachute jump in "Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life."

Fronting our hotel was Victoria Park—the very spot, we discovered, where thousands of Filipina domestic helpers congregate on their day off from work.

"Next to Chinese, Filipinos are now biggest ethnic group in Hong Kong," our guide Rita informed us.

Sunday proved her right. As early as 5 a.m., the park already swarmed with Pinays carrying blankets and bundles of food for their shared lunches, an entire race taking over a patch of real estate for the fleeting anchorage of home.

But some Filipinos have found more solid ground in Hong Kong. One of them is Joseph Fuego, whom we met before the 10-minute helicopter ride that would give us a lovely 360-degree view of Hong Kong island.

Fuego, born in Davao, has lived in Hong Kong for 33 years. At the helicopter tours office where he works as an all-around guy, he is every inch the Pinoy showman, delivering the required pre-boarding briefing with aplomb.

At the duty controller's desk sat Ela Lo of Antipolo, a Hong Kong resident for over 20 years. Did she consider going home, we asked, especially with the SARS threat?

"No," she said. "We just hoped it would pass. I have my job here, and the kids are in school." (She's married to a Chinese.)

Vibrant

The crisis did pass, and Clara Chong, HKTB executive director, would tell us later that evening at a welcome dinner for media guests: "Hong Kong is back to its exciting, vibrant best!"

Indeed, the first signs of recovery are in. Cathay Pacific's load for July is up by 84 percent, and while that figure is down 20 percent from the same month last year, prospects are bright for a quick rebound.

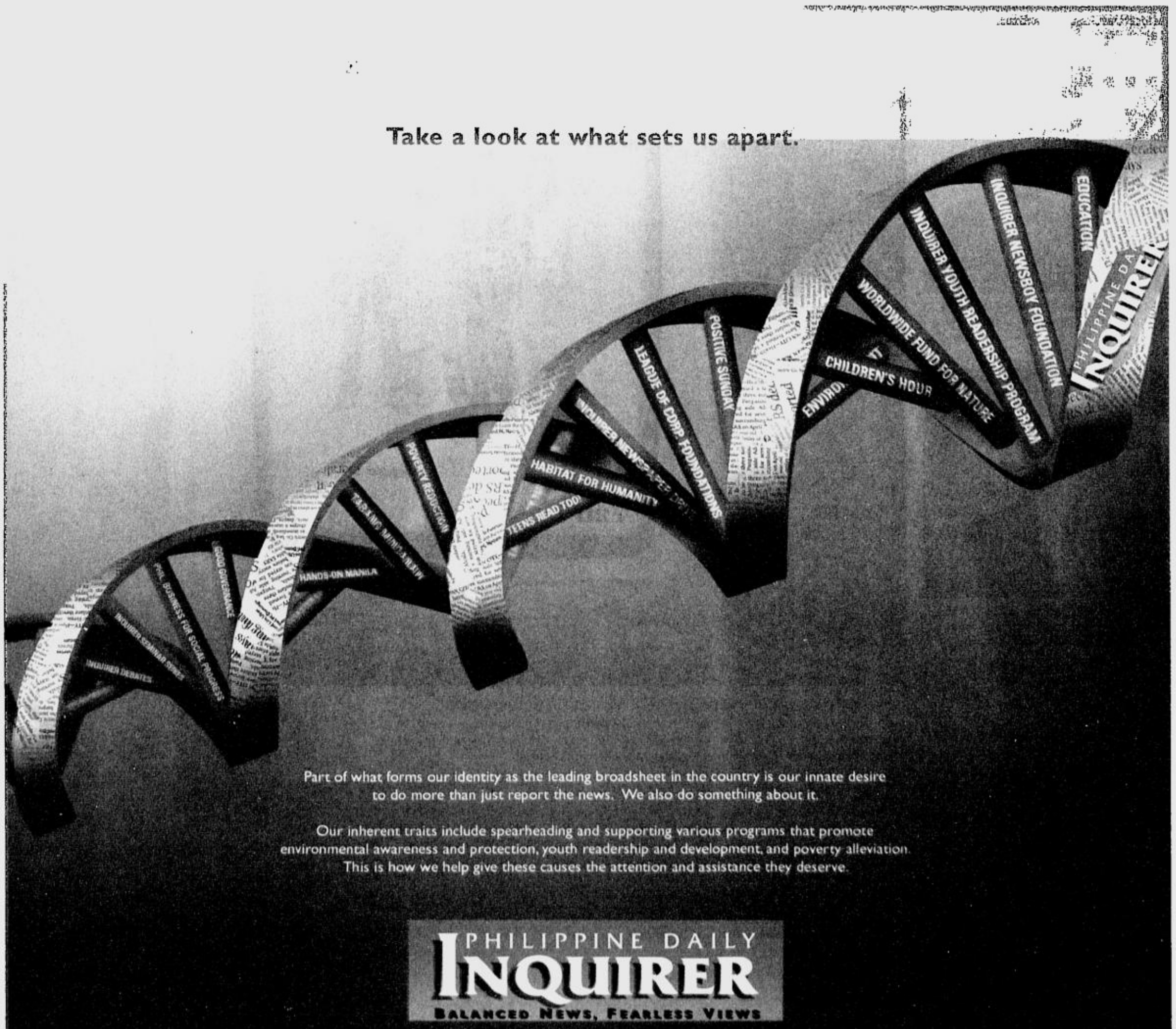
Hong Kong's comeback is easy to explain. Despite the shadow of SARS, this city is designed to make things easy for visitors. Public transportation works, the roads are clean, the sights are well-maintained and varied.

On the day we swung from one end of the city to the other—10-course seafood lunch on a southern island in the morning and a ride through the opposite New Territories side in the evening—we passed no less than three accidents on the road. But traffic was nil. Not a halt of more than five minutes, despite Rita's apologies "for the traffic."

SARS had drawn attention to the need to make Hong Kong safer and cleaner not just for tourists but everybody, according to Chong.

JOSEPH Fuego and Ela Lo, P employees at the helicopter tours office and long-time residents of the Crown Colo

Take a look at what sets us apart.



Part of what forms our identity as the leading broadsheet in the country is our innate desire to do more than just report the news. We also do something about it.

Our inherent traits include spearheading and supporting various programs that promote environmental awareness and protection, youth readership and development, and poverty alleviation. This is how we help give these causes the attention and assistance they deserve.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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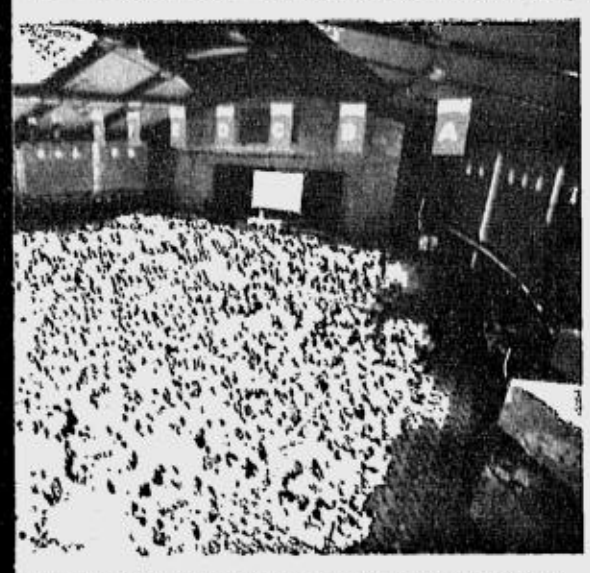
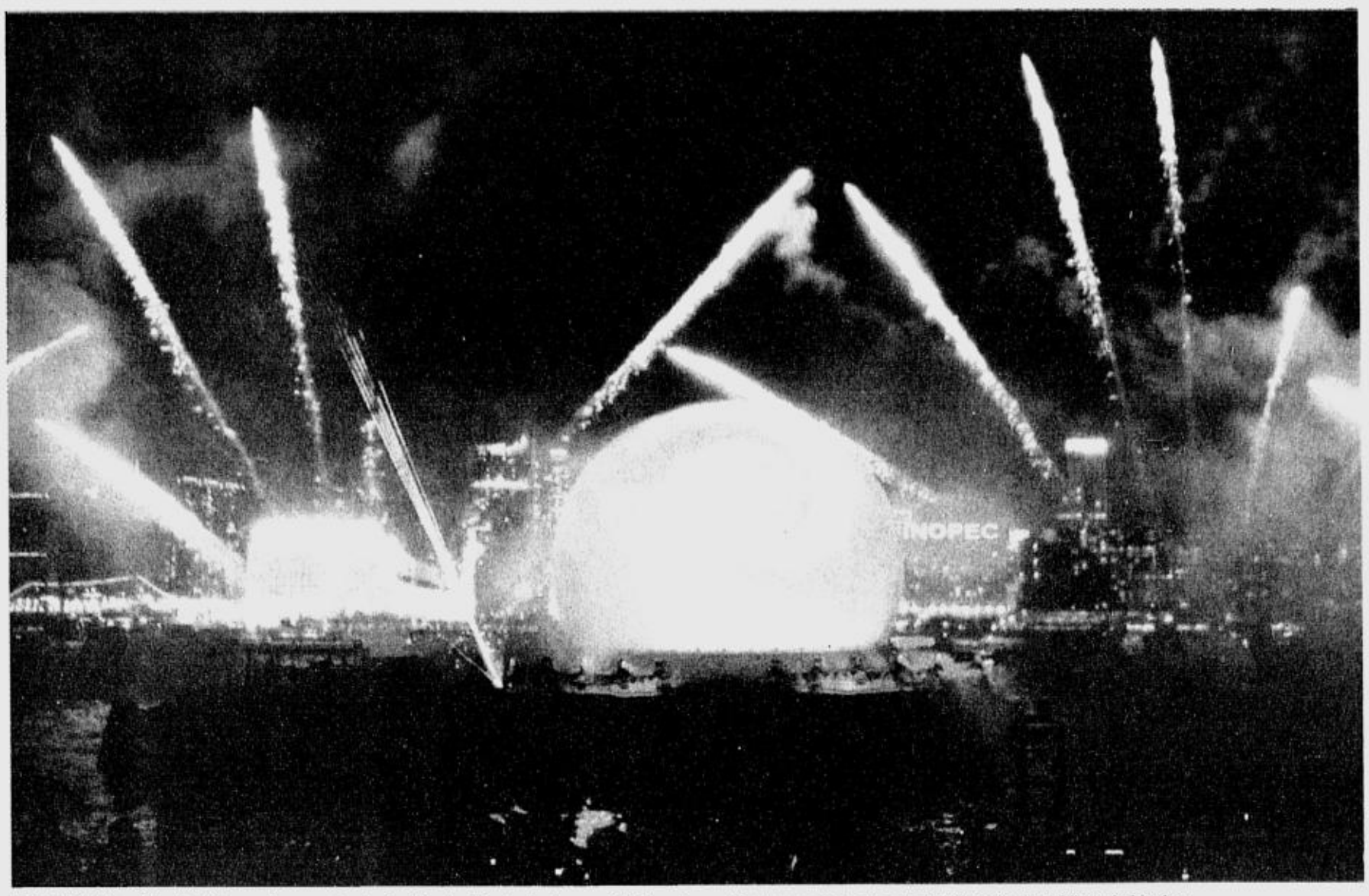


nquet tendered for 3,600 guests from 26 countries

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HONG KONG TOURISM BOARD



BRIGHT lights, big city. Fireworks punctuate the Strato-Fantasia show, a light-and-sound extravaganza ongoing until Sept. 15 at Victoria Harbor.

And the government, for all its political troubles, does earn good marks for its strict enforcement of cleanliness and hygiene programs.

Spitting, littering or not cleaning after your dog's poop, for instance, exacts a fine of HK$1,500. Thus, the Pinays in Victoria Park have learned to leave the grounds immaculate after their Sunday picnics, said Rita.

Pitching in

Marketing all this post-SARS revival obviously requires money. The government has earmarked HK$1 billion to relaunch Hong Kong worldwide, with around HK$400 million specifically allocated for tourism.

Around HK$15 million has also been set aside as prizes for a super draw meant to spur visitors to spend in Hong Kong. The draw, until Sept. 30, has over 7,000 participating merchant outlets and is open to all Hong Kong residents and visitors with valid travel documents (see www.discoverhongkong.com for more info).

Everyone else with a stake in the revival is pitching in with special promos: The Federation of Hotel Owners, the Airport Authority and the Lan Kwai Fong Association consisting of all the bars and shops and restos in the territory's nightlife hub.

COSTUME parade. More Filipinos at the Welcome Day banquet—this time representatives of local travel agencies and tour operators. The Filipiniana finery was a hit, eliciting ersatz fashion coverage from Taiwanese TV and other media groups.

Part of that effort had also gone to supporting this world gathering, and from Day 1, our hosts pulled out all the stops to make its point.

The mammoth banquet at the launching of the "Hong Kong Welcomes You!" campaign, for example, set amid the great utilitarian splendor of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, where the formal turnover ceremonies between the British and Chinese governments were held in 1997, was a brocaded, multi-sensory trip for the palate.

Nine award-winning gourmet dishes, recipients of the Best of the Best Culinary Awards from HKTB in the last two years, were laid before us one after the other, exotica as varied as "Foo-Yong" Crab Meat with Shark's Fin (by the Tsui Hang Village Restaurant) and Stewed Pork Belly served with Chinese Pancake (by Faye's Nouvelle Chinois Restaurant).

By the fifth or sixth dish we were ready to give up from sheer satiation. But our hosts were implacable. Hong Kong wasn't known as a food paradise for nothing.

Astute

Such first-class, take-no-prisoners hucksterism (and we use the term with all due admiration) could only come from an astute (as opposed to just sentimental) sense of pride and love for Hong Kong the brand, and everything it stands for.

CLARA Chong, Hong Kong Tourism Board executive director

The territory's exemplary marketing skills are a wonder, and a source of envy for us who come from a country with frankly many more picturesque sights to see, an equally rich heritage to share and a people talented enough to make it anywhere in the world, but with problems bigger than ourselves.

Chong is right. Tourists will flock back to Hong Kong, because its core strengths—"its sheer diversity and many hidden treasures," plus a community working hard to keep itself worthy of earning a visit from any traveler—are intact.

Cathay Pacific (tel. 7570888) flies four times daily from Manila to Hong Kong, and once daily from Cebu. Avail of a three-day, two-night package with accommodations for only US$134 until Sept. 30.

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph

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Sep 15 to Nov 15 — **Gentxt Maybelline Beauty Craze**

Gentxters who buy at least P500 worth of Maybelline products at participating outlets get a free Maybelline Water Shine Diamonds or Water Shine Liquid Diamonds Lip Color.
You also get a chance to win a Maybelline gift pack worth P2,000.
Just present your Gentxt card or Gentxt E-card (SMS from 2277) and a valid Dupon purchase.
Promo runs from September 15 to November 15, 2003. Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0442-S 2003

Check out the following Maybelline outlets:

1. Landmark Department Store
2. Watsons SM Department Stores (North Edsa, Megamall, Makati, Manila Bay, Southmall, Cebu, Cubao, Fairview, Manila, Trece Pinagbuhatan, Quiapo, Sta. Mesa)
3. Rustan's Department Store (Greenbelt)
4. Cindirella (SM Megamall, Glorietta, Robinson's, Fairview)
5. Maybelline Kiosk (SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, SM Southmall)
6. Galleano Metro/Ayala Department Stores (Cebu)

MAYBELINE NEW YORK

SPORTS

Sep to Oct — **Globe @ UAAP**

Experience basketball action LIVE to get special treats and cool deals at the Globe booths!
Free face painting and other fun activities for Gentxters during Araneta weekend games!

ENTERTAINMENT

Sep 1 Mon 8 pm — **LEGALLY BLONDE 2 Premiere @ Ontario Greenbelt 1**

Everyone's favorite lawyer is back, now in search of her true love, Emmy!
The first 100 scanners of flashed Gentxt card/E-card (SMS from 2277) and Globe Handyphone to the venue, starting at 6pm get complimentary tickets each.

Sep 12, 19 & 20 9 pm — **Gentxt Unplugged: Nina's First Acoustic Provincial Tour**

[to the tune of Ich and Swoon's "Throughout Heaven and Earth"]
Sep 12: Baguio @ Cimbal's - Nina and Essence
Sep 19: Cebu @ Rusty's - Nina w/ Jimmy Bondoc and NyoyVolante
Sep 20: Davao @ The Venue - Nina w/ Jimmy Bondoc and NyoyVolante
20% discount and VIP line for Gentxters!!

Sep 5 & 12 Fri 10pm — **Vibo Fridays @ WASABI Bistro and Bar**

(featuring DJ Steve Mills & DJ Aryan)
Come dance with true Manila's number one Friday night!
Gentxters, be and be boy-aged in for free! (subject to space limitations and dress code)

Sep 10, 12 & 24 9pm — **Gentxt Nights @ DISH Rockwell Power Plant**

Move to the Gentxt groove in our weekly concerts.
Sep 10: NyoyVolante with Mannoa & Nina
Sep 12: South Border & Pido with Take One
Sep 24: NyoyVolante with Mannoa & Jimmy Bondoc
Flash your Gentxt card/E-card (SMS from 2277) and Globe Handyphone to get free entrance and free drink.
VIP area for the first 100 Gentxters

Sep 20 Sat — **Gentxt @ Penafrancia Festival, Naga**

Chili Peppers @ 8pm: Red Hot and Raw! An acoustic showcase featuring Velcro
Free entrance and drink for Gentxters
Coco Loco @ 9pm: Coco Jam featuring Orange and Lemon
Free entrance and drink for Gentxters
Lolo's Bar @ 10pm: Lolo Goes Nuts! comedy show featuring Archie and Bernie
Free entrance and drink for the 1st 25 Gentxters
Planet E @ 10pm: Chill Out Party featuring Manila bands
Free entrance and drink for the 1st 50 Gentxters
Spiral Mind @ 12 mn: Blasting Down the Hour @ Rave Party featuring DJ Ace
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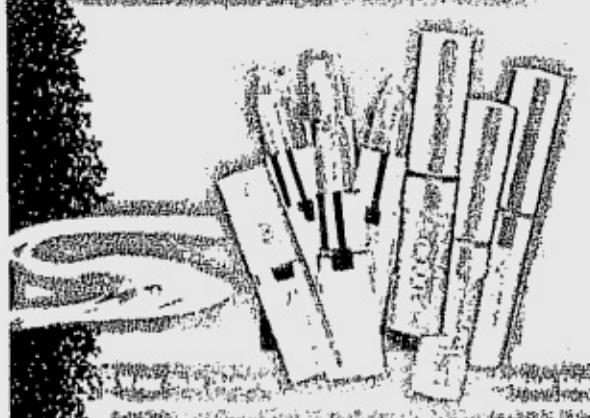

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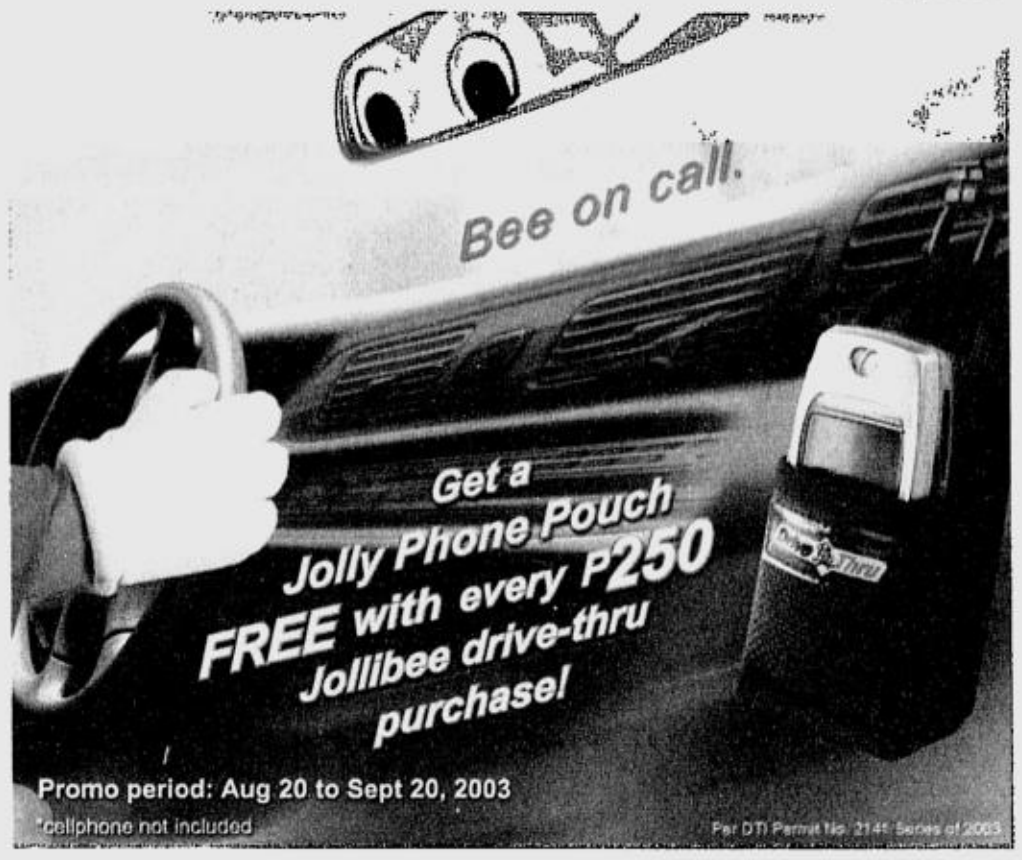
G B1 of US! Text JOIN to 2277

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Getting communities talking



By Angelina G. Goloy
Contributor

IN A HUT that serves as the office of Haribon Foundation in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, village leaders and officials of livelihood associations listen to a presentation by a mobile phone company. Mostly from remote areas where there are no telephones, they are curious about wireless communication, throwing questions at Marilyn Rivera, community relations officer of Smart Communications, Inc., who proceeds to demonstrate how a satellite phone works.

At first glance, it looks nothing more than standard sales pitch, and one not likely to yield the desired result. Why would simple folks like fishermen and seaweed farmers be interested in a satellite phone?

But forget for a moment all the hype about mobile phones—polyphonic top-hits ring tones, moving picture messages in color, downloads and other fancy features urbanites consider indispensable. When you come right down to it, minus the games, camera, FM radio, mp3 player, recorder, alarm, digital organizer, PC, e-mail, and banking connections, the phone is still essentially a tool for communication.

And it is through this basic function that the country's largest telecommunications company seeks to enable the little folk to catch up with and take a piece of the (economic) action, while boosting their capability as guardians of our natural resources.

Giving access

Smart this year embarked on a program to help community-based organizations gain access to wireless telecommunication services on a sustainable basis. Billed "Connecting Communities," the program applies different wireless technologies depending on the situation.

For areas without landline or mobile communications, the program offers Smart's prepaid satellite phone service, SmartLink. In areas covered by Smart's GSM network, the program offers GSM phones with various text-based wireless services.

The program operates on the principle that connectivity speeds up the turnover of goods and services and, consequently, increases income. At the same time, the phone service itself presents a separate business opportunity.

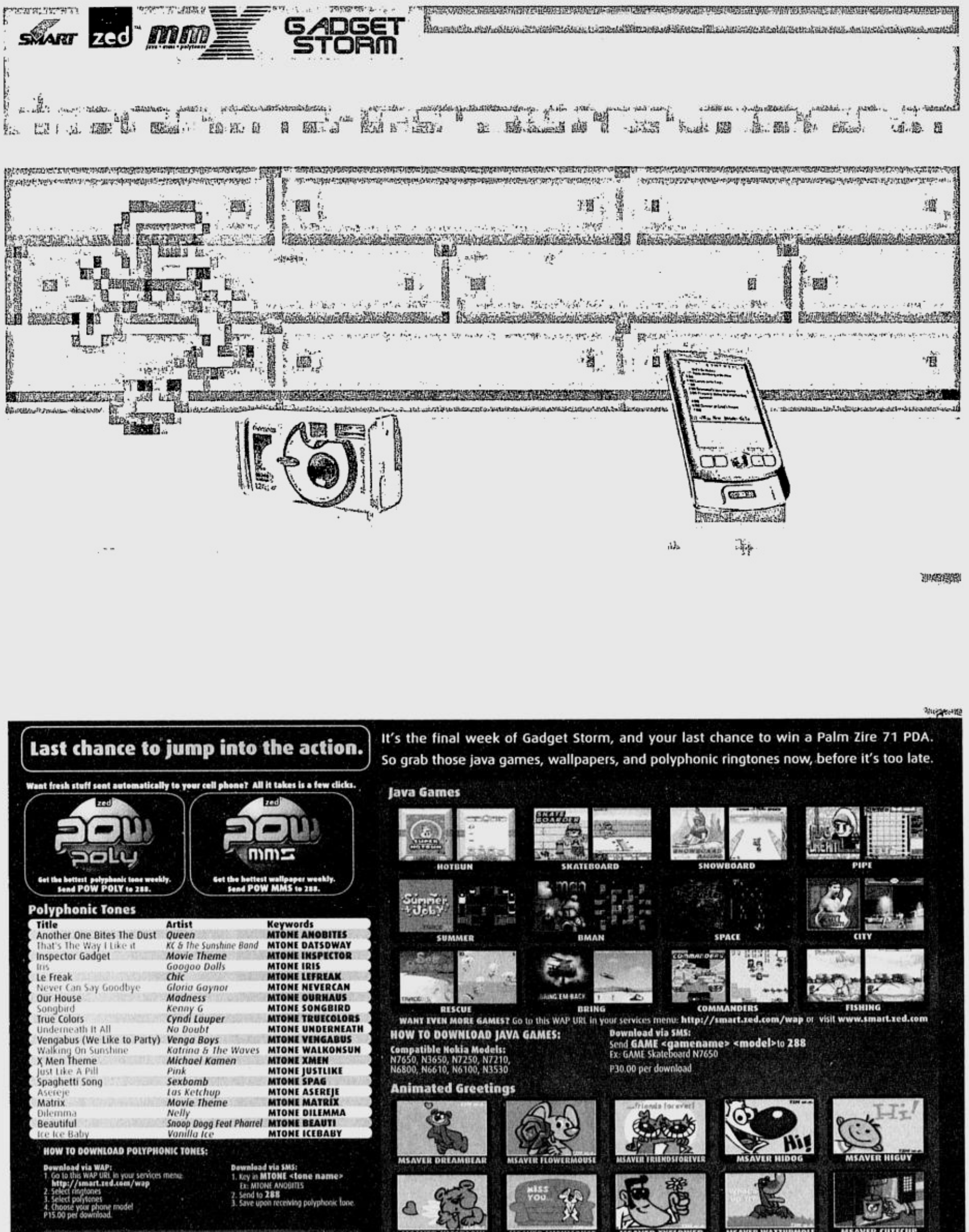
"This effort is one of several community service programs that Smart is currently developing. We also have programs to upgrade communications engineering education and another to provide the Red Cross with communications assistance during times of emergencies," says Mon Isberto, head of Smart's public affairs department.

Under a use-to-own scheme, Smart loans a prepaid satellite phone kit to a community or association and loads it with a start-up P2,500 worth of airtime for free. If the group's usage averages P2,500 a month for three months, the phone is theirs.

"This is a user-friendly means for the community to acquire a phone. There is no cash-out on their part and the initial load gives them a starting fund. At the same time, the minimum use requirement prods the community to work out a simple business plan to guide the usage of the phone," Isberto explains.

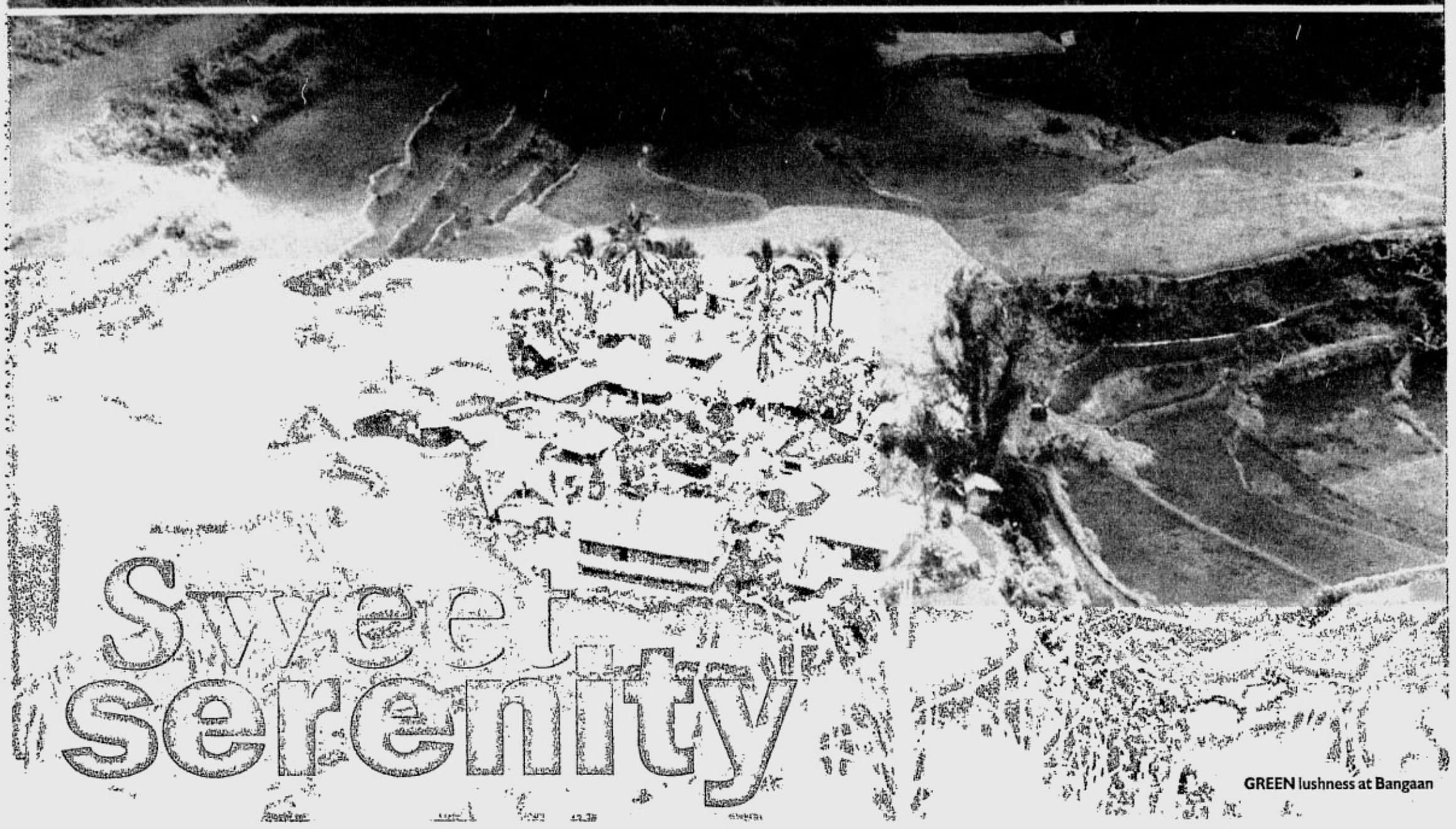
GETTING/ H3

CATCHING the big fish. While many fishermen dream of catching the biggest fish their nets could find, this fisherman from Donsol is content to merely swim alongside the biggest one of them all, the *butanding*.



TRAVEL

Editor Rosario A. Garcellano



Sweet serenity

GREEN lushness at Bangaan

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

BEING stuck in Metro Manila for so long can make one twitchy, especially if one is chained to a routine that has become second nature. Granted there are many things that are hard to leave unattended in the metropolis, but when a chance for a change of scene presents itself, you jump at it without hesitation—and lose yourself in its fleetingness.

It was to be my first vacation in years, and postcard-pretty Banaue seemed sufficiently promising. Needless to say, I wasn't disappointed. Accompanied mostly by seasoned travelers, this nerd found out what the fuss was all about, and learned some stimulating things along the way.

The brief but fruitful vacation did what it was supposed to do, yielding valuable (and some trivial) things that satisfied this infrequent tourist:

• The journey can be as interesting as the destination.

It doesn't hurt that the company you have is a good one; the late-night bus ride from España in Manila would certainly be more enjoyable and less butt-breaking. Whether your seatmate loves "Buffy" or other speakable topics under the sun, a lively, diplomatic conversation can take your mind off the roughly 9-hour trip to misty, mystical Ifugao.

Not that the trip should be such a chore, mind you. The cloak of night hides provincial borders, but come daylight the territorial differences become apparent. The cramped cityscape is left behind for endless rice fields and unbound land formations.

There is a stopover every few hours in different provinces, where passengers answer the call of nature. Many of us had never set foot on Nueva Ecija before, but there we were, relieving ourselves, too. The temporary respites gave the travelers renewed vigor as the trip continued on winding roads often shaded by thick foliage.

The seemingly endless stretches of vegetation-heavy plains signal the entry to a less complicated environment, a domain where artistry takes a whole new meaning.

• Certain technologies also take vacations.

Before you reach Ifugao, your cell phone loses the capability to receive and send text messages. But not if you're a Smart subscriber (there's a cell site atop one of the nearby hills). Unless you have a laptop with you, you can check your e-mails, but that wouldn't be too vacation-y, would it?

There's electricity, of course, and upon arriving at Kiangan and its very homey atmosphere, I was immediately reminded of the few other provinces I've seen: somewhat rural, but showing hints of progress. People were courteous—definitely a big plus.

> On the way to scenic Banaue, the rarely traveled discovers that the journey can be as interesting as the destination

A LESSON in history at the Yamashita Shrine

PHOTOS BY REDGE JIMENEZ

Our group stayed at the Yamashita Guest House, in simple yet spacious dorm-like quarters. There were no TV sets so we were oblivious to the goings-on back home. But part of the point of being there is enjoying the sights the place has to offer. The handiest technological marvel you can bring is a camera, to capture its distinctive characteristics.

And there are just so many things you can take pictures of.

• Nature kicks major posterior.

Surrounded by a variety of grassy knolls and old trees, the Ambuwaya Lake is almost eerie in its stillness. Local legends about the mysterious place abound, and the sound of cawing, hidden birds echoes throughout the open space.

Back in town, we saw healthy-looking dogs of almost every kind practically everywhere.

We learned a bit of history at the site of General Yamashita's surrender and a school near it, but what was undeniably more attention-grabbing was the mostly unspoiled landscape, and how its cool climate adds to its serene ambience.

Back at the house, we found that the darkness had transformed the open-windowed function area into a veritable ecosystem of harmless bugs.

A companion admired a big one with an artsy, symmetrical design on its wings. Ah, the wonders of nature.

• The Banaue Rice Terraces are not officially "the 8th Wonder of the World." That's according to a provincial government rep, but they look so gosh-darn awesome it's no wonder the monicker sticks.

Our group went to the Bangaan portion of the man-made structures—platform upon platform of green lushness welcoming us outlanders. Looking at it from a high perspective in a gazebo was an experience entirely different from seeing them up close.

We descended to the depths of the terraces by foot on steep, small walkways, very challenging to anyone with or without a fear of heights.

The actual, stair-like quality of these mountainsides is impressive, both in their aesthetic and engineering aspects. Hiking back is a one-of-a-kind exercise too, as workouts never felt quite this grand or exhilarating. You can actually spot tiny waterfalls studding the adjacent mountains, clear water streaming forth from their smoothened sides.

• Art is everywhere in Banaue.

Along the path back is a small stall where wooden idols and accessories are sold, all sculpted, according to the merchant, by her husband. It's been their business for years, she revealed to this city boy while smoothing an unpainted sculpture with sandpaper.

The only open souvenir shop in the municipality that Sunday had pretty much the same things sold in Baguio stores, except that the T-shirts were labeled "Banaue." Loads of colorful woven blankets, necklaces and thingamajigs, musical instruments—they were all there.

We stayed for the night at native cottages in nearby Ilob Village, about 30 minutes from the terraces, getting there via coiling and sight-filled roads.

These small, raised houses have carabao skulls bedecking their facades, as well as a removable ladder with humanoid designs on the upper tips. It takes some getting used to inside, as the low door frame and diagonal beams supporting its roof can knock one silly.

Banaue is virtually an open museum; it's got numerous cultural artifacts just waiting to be appreciated.

• Holidays end, like some good things do.

Just when we had gotten used to the chill, foggy (not smoggy, thank the gods) mountainside weather, our short visit had reached its conclusion. We were scheduled for an early departure, but the fun didn't stop there. The view on the Cubao-bound bus was, in a word, breathtaking.

Some of the best mementos we brought back were the memories. My Ifugao trek may have been short, but it was definitely sweet. It was a break filled not only with lovely landmarks (and we were only able to check out a few in such a limited time), but also with a serenity that's meditative and romantic at the same time.

For the rarely traveled, that means a lot.

TravelBriefs

Bus travel discounts

UNTIL November, travelers on Philtranco routes (Manila, Bicol, Visayas and Mindanao) may avail themselves of discounts on fares.

On the "Morning Special" trips, passengers can save up to 20 percent on air-conditioned and Gold Service fare rates. Trips on ordinary buses are also offered at especially lower rates. Those taking the "Round Trip Specials" are offered up to 30 percent off on their return trips.

Other perks include free ferry rides on all Visayas routes, free Jollibee meals on Gold Service, and free meals at the food court of Philtranco's central station in Pasay City.

For more details, text PTRANCO-space-HELP and send to 211 (Smart) or 2333 (Globe).

For frequent flyers

SINGAPORE Airlines (SIA) is offering exciting deals and discounts for members of its frequent flyer program Krisflyer starting Oct. 27.

For starters, Krisflyers can redeem one-way award tickets at only 70 percent of the original miles required for the same round-trip awards.

On first and business class, members can enjoy a great selection of seats, 12 months validity on a ticket and two free stopovers. The points required will be double of current first and business class awards.

The first and business class awards known as Savers will continue to offer six months validity on tickets and a free stopover.

Krisflyers can also get more stopovers for less flyer miles. Additional stopovers will be redeemable for only 10,000 miles regardless of class of service instead of the 15,000 miles for economy class, 25,000 miles for business, and 40,000 miles for first.

For details, check with your travel agent or contact the SIA Tours Desk in Manila at 751-5151 or 810-4960, in Cebu at (032) 232-6211, or in Davao at (82) 22356080.

ANZ trade route

EMIRATES' twice daily services to Auckland via Sydney and Melbourne is triggering a strong surge in cargo traffic, with distributors in the Middle East, Europe and Far East now having quicker access to New Zealand and Australian products.

Through Emirates SkyCargo, consumers in the Middle East and beyond can add fresh kiwi, fish and dairy to their shopping carts all year round. And in New Zealand, consumers can purchase the latest in fashion and cosmetics from Paris as well as top-of-the-line electrical and engineering products from elsewhere in Europe.

The next big launch date in the Emirates calendar is Oct. 26, when it will celebrate a double inauguration: the new Brisbane route extended to Auckland, marking the fourth Australian destination, and a triple daily to New Zealand.

The new daily services will use the airline's wide-bodied Boeing 777-300, capable of carrying 25 tons of cargo in each direction.

Emirates currently offers daily services to Perth, Melbourne and Sydney, totaling 21 flights a week to Australia.

Its 53-strong fleet, one of the youngest in the skies, includes 50 wide-bodied passenger jets and three freighters—two 747-400Fs and one 747-200F.

SkyCargo's Priority Service assures on-time delivery throughout the world, while the extensive trucking and off-line partner networks ensure comprehensive coverage where customers need it most. SkyChain, the one-stop web shop with many value-added features, enables customers to obtain information as well as transact business online.

Pilgrimage tour

AS a culminating activity of the Rosary Year, the Daughters of Mary Immaculate are organizing a pilgrimage tour departing Manila on Sept. 28 and covering Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Spain, Italy and France.

Msgr. Honesto Ongtioco, DD will serve as pilgrimage chaplain.

The trip will include visits to the principal pilgrimage centers of Rome, Monte Cassino, La Sallette, Zaragoza, Lourdes and Paray Le Monial, as well as the most beautiful sites of Vienna, Salzburg, Bavaria, Venice, Lucerne, Barcelona, Paris and London.

Interested parties may call Joy David at (47) 791-4107 or 0917-4004448, or Adam's Express Travel at 521-1651 or 521-1638.

Getting communities talking

From page H1

Environmental advocacy

More than a business proposition, the program doubles as a means for advocating environmental protection and preservation of our natural resources, says Darwin Flores, Smart's manager for community relations.

Flores is largely responsible for seeking out small local organizations that could be assisted and who could inspire similar groups. Specifically, Connecting Communities focuses on groups engaged in agricultural production, aquaculture, mariculture (*tilapia* or grouper raising), handicraft, making of native building materials like *sawali* and *nipa*, gathering and selling of forest products like rattan, bamboo, honey, trading, running of credit and savings associations or cooperative stores, operation of post-harvest facilities like rice mills and storage or semi-processing plants, even ecotourism.

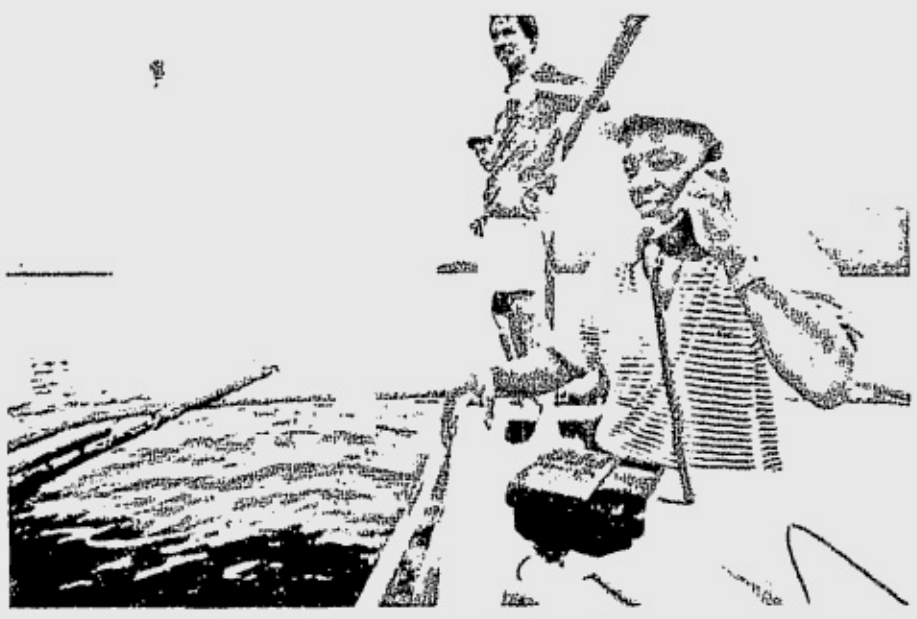
One of the first project areas was Dilong, a barangay in Tubo, Abra, which is part of the environmental conservation project site of the Foundation for the Philippine Environment (FPE) in the Cordilleras. FPE's partner organizations are the Concerned Citizens of Abra for Good Government and the Dilong Multipurpose Cooperative, which serves three Tingguian barangays in the mountainous and rugged tri-boundary of Abra, La Union and Mt. Province.

"The trip from the capital town, Bangued, to Dilong takes eight arduous hours over rugged mountain roads, across rivers and riverbeds, passing near historic Tirad Pass. There is a GSM signal, but you have to climb a hill for about 15 minutes to text or make a call," Flores says of the area.

With the SmartLink Tawag Center, housed at the co-op's credit and savings office, members and other barangay residents can call relatives in San Fernando, La Union, Baguio, Manila and even France and Germany.

In Barangay Tenani, Paranas town, Samar, the satellite phone has been a boon to the rattan products business of Katatapuran Nga Pederasyon Han Paraguma Ha Samar, Inc. (KAPPAS), another partner of the FPE. It facilitates communication with buyers in Tacloban, Leyte, which is three and a half hours away, and Catbalogan, an hour and a half away.

"The group has a Community-Based Forest Management Agreement with the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) to manage and protect about 5,700 hectares of primary and secondary forest land," Flores says, adding, "KAPPAS is a DENR awardee for best gender-sensitive program."



SATELLITE fishing. Residents of Roxas town in Palawan find many uses for the versatile and mobile Smart Link satellite phone. They use it to call fish traders in the city and relatives abroad, and sometimes bring it when riding the *banca* for their water patrol activities.

The mobile phone remains essentially a tool for communication

In Mindanao, farmers from Barangay Saloy sell their rambutan, lanzones, durian, corn, rice and other crops and produce mainly to Davao City, an hour and a half away. To contact buyers, they used to travel to Calinan District, 45 minutes away, on unpaved roads that turned muddy and slippery whenever it rained.

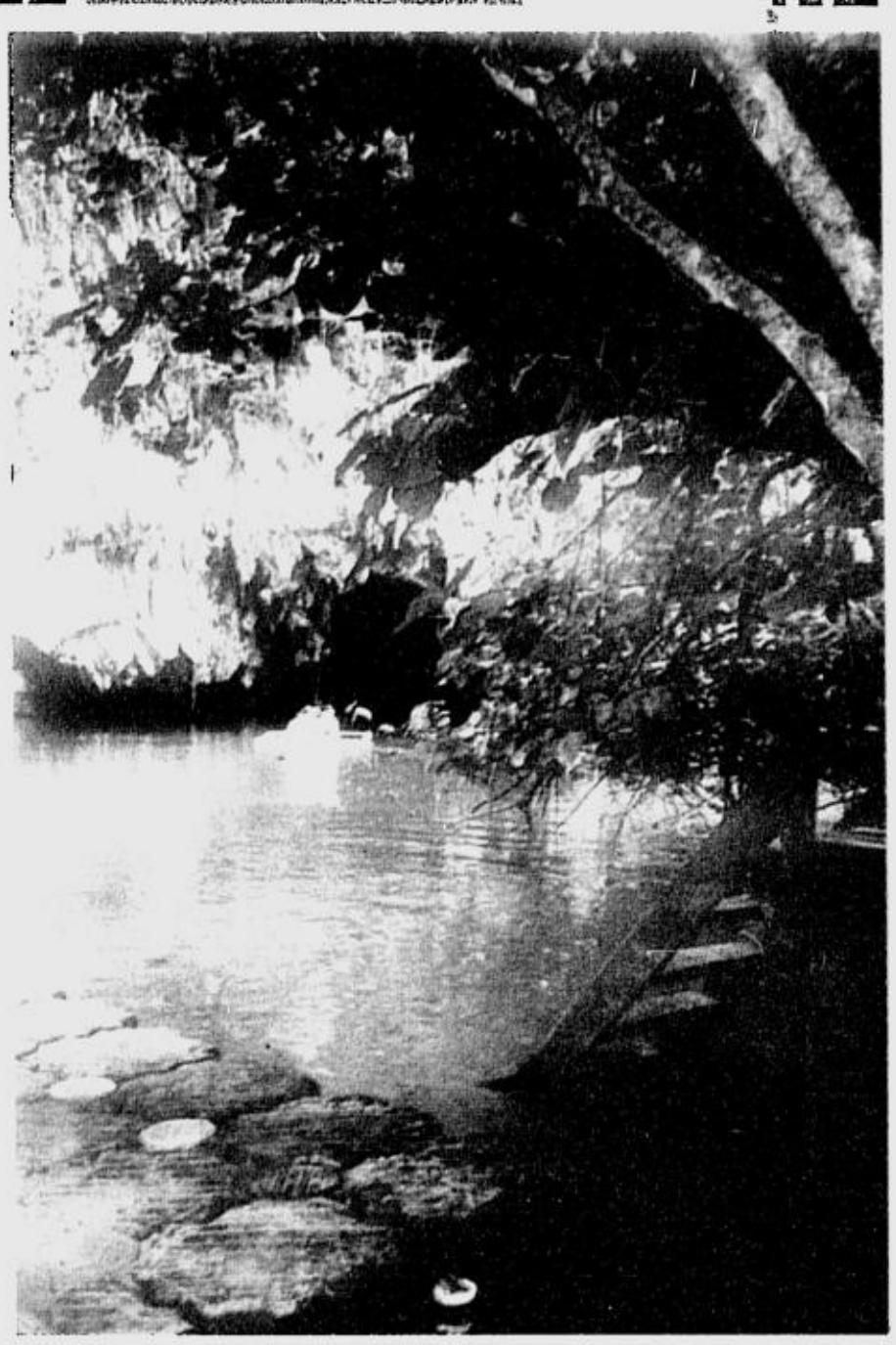
Things move faster these days, with a satellite phone installed at the rice mill/*sari-sari* store of the Saloy Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative, a partner of Yamog Renewable Energy Group and the United Nations Development Program Small Grants Program. The co-op is now in the process of constructing a micro-hydro power plant that will ensure continuous electricity to the farming community.

Facing a challenge

In Palawan, where the rugged terrain has always posed a challenge to cellular operators, Smart has entered into agreements with nine communities, through Haribon, World Wildlife Fund, and Conservation International.

Three associations have already signed up with Smart for the provision of satellite phones. These are the association of small fishermen in Roxas town, the Mangrove Paddle Boat Tour Association operating at the United Nations World Heritage-listed St. Paul Subterranean River, and the Barangay Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council on Green Island known for its wide variety of fishes, as well as the *dugong*, and one of the largest seaweed farming areas in Palawan, benefiting some 2,000 farmers.

Smart has also linked up with groups engaged in crab-fattening and grouper-raising in Calamianes. At the same time, the use of satellite phones has boosted the efficiency of fish wardens on the mainland's coastal areas.



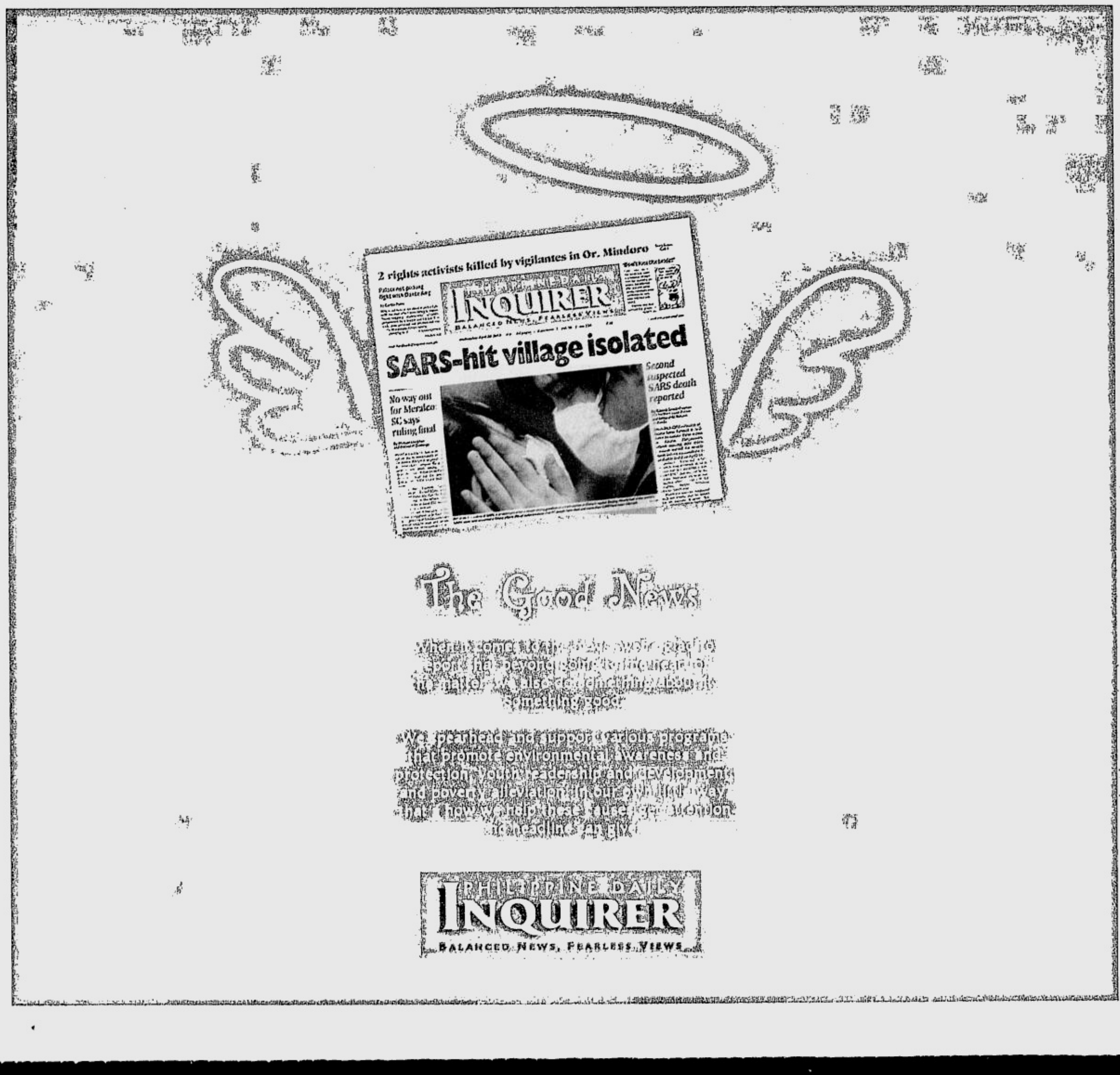
AMONG Smart's "connected communities" are the paddle boat tour operators at the UN World Heritage-listed St. Paul Subterranean River in Palawan.

Another beneficiary is the eco-tourism project in Donsol, Sorsogon, which is said to host the biggest concentration of whale sharks (*butanding*) in the world.

Donsol's remote location and lack of telecommunication facilities used to discourage tourists. Anyone interested in seeing the *butanding* would have to contact a call station and request to be put through to a whale shark interaction guide or tourism staff. It took about 15-20 minutes for the person who received the call to track down the guide and get him on the phone with the tourist. Sometimes, no one took the call at the station or whoever did never got back to the caller.

After the tourism office got a satellite phone, tourist arrivals and bookings for the whale shark interaction tours increased.

"It's easy for people in urban areas to take this for granted," Isberto says. But connecting remote rural communities can sometimes mean the very survival of people there."



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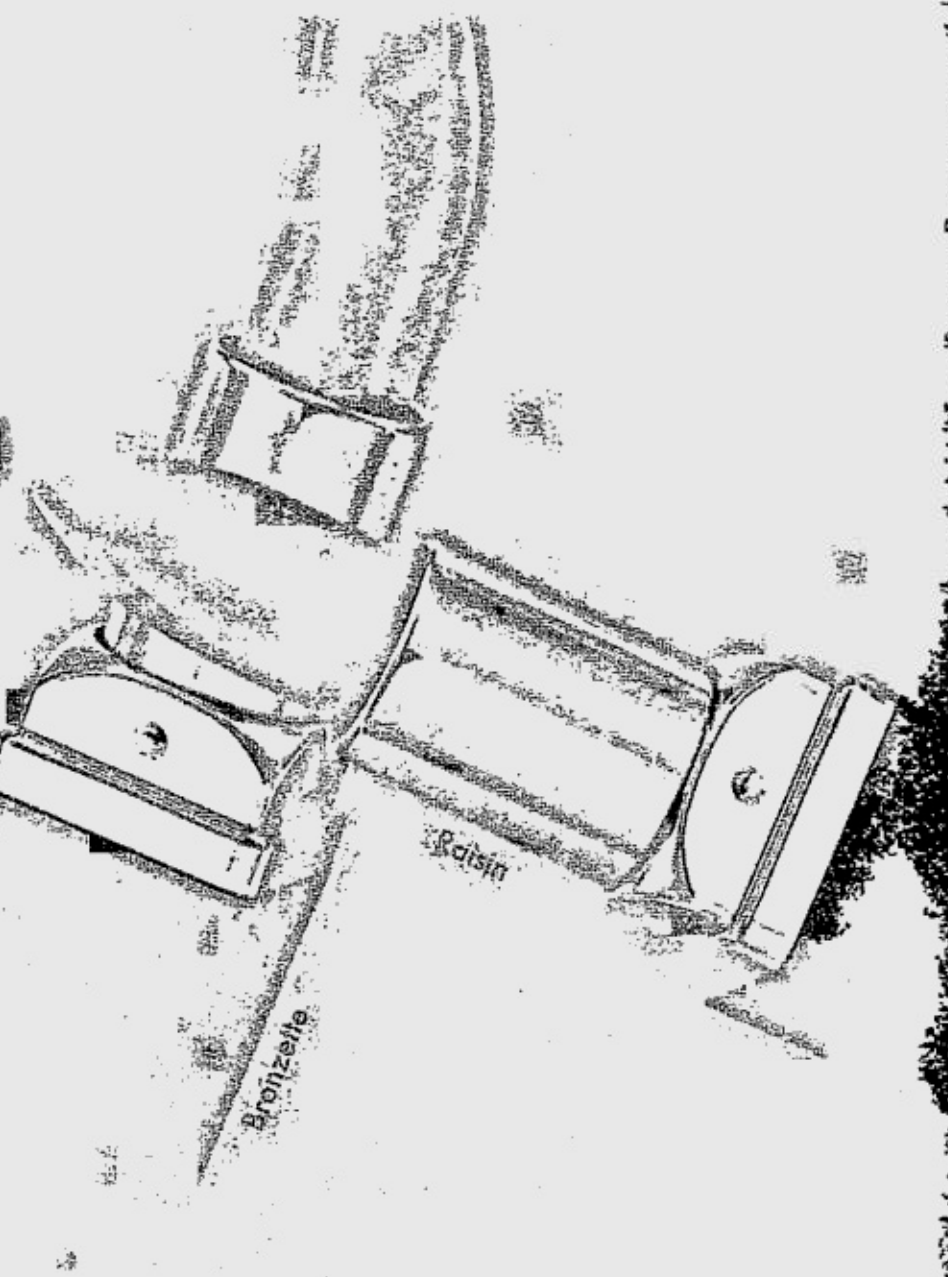

Let's talk
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BURMESE medicine cabinet, Buddha, Indonesian lamp and accessories, floor pillows

Gallery of charming things

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Rudy Esperas

SURROUNDING herself with the objects of her passion is second nature to Virginia Tan Manalo, quilt designer, home furnishing linen manufacturer and vivacious exporter.

Fine things from her collection drape over tables and sofas, cover beds, fill cabinets and hang on walls.

"It's a shame not to show them," says Manalo. "That's how I feel about anything I love. It's a waste if you cannot share or enjoy it."

To her credit, she has fashioned a perfect display room at a shop called CMM Home & Lifestyle Gallery, which she will formally open on Sept. 6.

One can find quilted products for the bedroom, living room, dining room and kitchen at CMM. Antique porcelain vases, luster ware, Blue Bee series of porcelain ware, celadon ware that was famous during the Sung Dynasty, and the Ox Blood Red series which "only the Chinese emperor had"—acquisitions from her recent travels to China—are also on display for sale.

There are also decorative porcelain ware, novelty items and home accessories from Burma, Indonesia, Thailand, Tibet.

In October, CMM will showcase quilted Christmas décor.

"Since I was a child, I have been fond of crafts, embroidery, quilts, curtains. Anything that has to do with home décor," says Manalo, whose Mediterranean-styled home showcases decorative items she has accumulated from trips abroad.

Hobby turned biz

It was in 1980 when Manalo, a medical technology graduate, initially made quilts as a hobby. The following year, friends and relatives began to place orders.

In 1982, they encouraged Manalo to present her creations under the label Biencarlo's Quilts to Rustan's and Shoemart department stores.

In 1990, Biencarlo's Quilts became a

GALLERY/ I2

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That "Heavy" Feeling?

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When this happens, do you feel that your ordinary maxi is not enough when your period is at its heaviest? Or do you want a feminine pad that's as heavy duty as an overnight pad but less bulky?

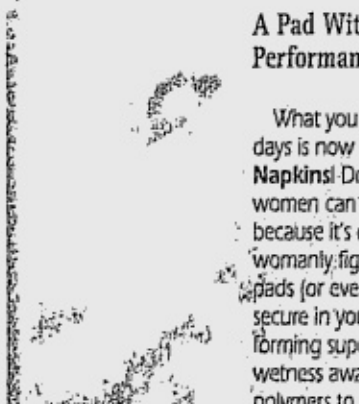
A Pad With Heavy Duty Performance!

What you want in a pad for your heaviest days is now here : **Charmee Maternity Napkins**! Don't be misled by the name! All women can use it for their heaviest period because it's designed to naturally fit any womanly figure so you don't have to use two pads (or even adult diapers for some!) to feel secure in your pad! It's patented suction-forming super absorbent core locks the wetness away from the body. It comes with polymers to inhibit bacterial growth and to neutralize odor for round-the-clock freshness. And, its elastic garters prevent any unwanted leaks so your period won't make an appearance!

Light On The Pocket!

Charmee Maternity Napkins is the flattest ultra-performing pad in town that's priced competitively less than other brands so you're sure of the best protection against your period without straining your purse!

Now who says your heavy days have to weigh you down? Not when you've got **Charmee Maternity Napkins** - for that light feeling even during your heaviest flows!



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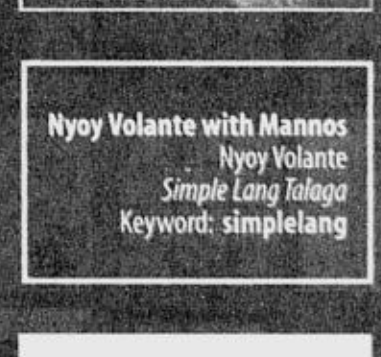
<Taken from the week's hottest acoustic and R&B albums.>

A.K.A.:
Almost Kinda Acoustic
Various Artists
Last Goodbye by Jeff Buckley
Keyword: **lastgoodbye**

The Art Of Letting Go
Various Artists
Stranded by Jennifer Paige
Keyword: **stranded**

Bling Bling!
Various Artists
The Jump Off by L'il Kim
Keyword: **thejumpoff**



Nyoy Volante with Mannos
Nyoy Volante
Simple Lang Talaga
Keyword: **simplelang**

Playlist
Paolo Santos
Coffee Cup
Keyword: **coffeecup**

With SMART Music Link, you can download ringtones, polytones and images from the newest albums.

To register, key-in **MUSIC** and send to **209**.
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To automatically receive one of the featured tones every week, key-in **TONE ON** (for ringtones) or **POLY ON** (for polytones) and send to **209**.

Tower Records Video Music Books — Top 25 Albums of the Week

1	**Playlist** Paolo Santos keyword: *coffeecup* keyword: *close*	8	**Bling Bling** Various Artists keyword: *thejumpoff*	17	**The Piano Player** Maksim keyword: *bumblebee*
2	**A.K.A.:** **Almost Kinda Acoustic** Various Artists keyword: *lastgoodbye* keyword: *lullaby*	9	**Break Barriers** Various Artists	18	**Come Away With Me** Norah Jones
		10	**Fantasy 4ever** F4	19	**Round 2** Sexbomb Girls
3	**Nyoy Volante with Mannos** Nyoy Volante keyword: *sunnekang*	11	**Waking Hour** Vienna Teng	20	**Black Eyed Peas** Elephunk
		12	**The Art Of Letting Go** Various Artists keyword: *stranded*	21	**Here's To You** Beverly Staunton
4	**Michael Bublé** Michael Bublé			22	**Loving You** Lani Misalucha
5	**Bigotilyo** Parokya Ni Edgar	13	**Meteor Garden II** Original Soundtrack	23	**Fallen** Evanescence
6	**Heaven** Nina	14	**Dangerously In Love** Beyoncé Knowles	24	**Josh Groban** Josh Groban
7	**Beautiful Because Love Is** Various Artists	15	**Let Me Be The One** Jimmy Bondoc	25	**In Concert** Josh Groban
		16	**Meteor Rain** F4		

Other Available Ringtones: Love Don't Love Me by Justin Timberlake (keyword: *undontlovme*)
Sink N Swim by Plumb (keyword: *sinkswim*)
Bonnie & Clyde '03 by Beyoncé Knowles (keyword: *bonnieclyde*)
Jumpin Jumpin Remix by Destiny's Child (keyword: *jumpinremix*)
I Know What You Want by Busta Rhymes (keyword: *wantwant*)

All ringtone/polytone keywords are available for two weeks only.
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BURMESE teakwood musician with Thai sandstone loving couple

Gallery of charming things

From page 11

concessionaire of Shoemart and Robinsons department stores.

Since expansion was inevitable, Manalo's relatives joined her business and VTM Quilts Collection Inc. was put up.

In 1993, VTM built its quilt factory in Candelaria, Quezon, with about 70 sewers. The following year, CMM Quilters Gallery was established in Mandaluyong, precursor of the soon-to-open CMM Home & Lifestyle Gallery.

Today, VTM has another factory in Mandaluyong and is a concessionaire and supplier in department stores in Metro Manila, Cebu, Bacolod, Legaspi, Cabanatuan, Tagbilaran, Davao and Zamboanga. VTM now has 180 employees.

Manalo also owns Virginia's Cornucopia of Cushions & Quilts, located on level 2, Espansion Mall, Rodeo Drive in Robinsons Galleria and Greenhills Lifestyle Center.

Old World charm

Quilts, long thought of as a more traditional item, have made the transition into the modern and contemporary, says Manalo, but at the same time have kept their Old World charm.

According to Manalo, the appeal of quilts lies in their construction. Consumers, she says, like the fact that better quilts are handmade and, although it may be a brand new quilt, it gives them the feeling of owning a piece of history.

"Maybe it is because it reminds us of the comforts of grandma's house. Or maybe it is because we all long for a simpler, homier time," she says. "It's something that has a lot of value and is very decorative-looking."

Beads

CMM Home & Lifestyle Gallery also features the latest accessory to create a buzz in fashion circles—bead jewelry.

Made of Swarovski crystals, plastic beads and semi-precious stones from China, Bangkok, India and Vietnam, CMM's bead pieces are designed by Cinderella Tan, Manalo's sister, and Lesley Uy-Yiu.

Beads are multi-occasional and can work with anything from formal dress to jeans.

They are also appealing to consumers' spiritual side, Uy-Yiu says. "In fact, each bead is said to have a unique property; clear beads, for instance, suggest strength and vitality, and wood possesses simplicity and humility."

"At present, anything Asian-inspired and a little chunky has got retail clout," Tan says.

Initially, Tan and Uy-Yiu, who are both interior design graduates, made the bead jewelry for themselves, buying materials from Greenhills. Friends saw their works and asked the two to create for them, too. "Since it's in vogue, we've decided to make it a business," Tan says.

CMM Gallery also features Artemex, handmade fashion jewelry made of sterling silver and real flowers.

"The 25-year-old Mexican company grows its own flowers. The flowers are placed inside pendants, rings, earrings, bracelets with acrylic and resin on the surface," Tan says.

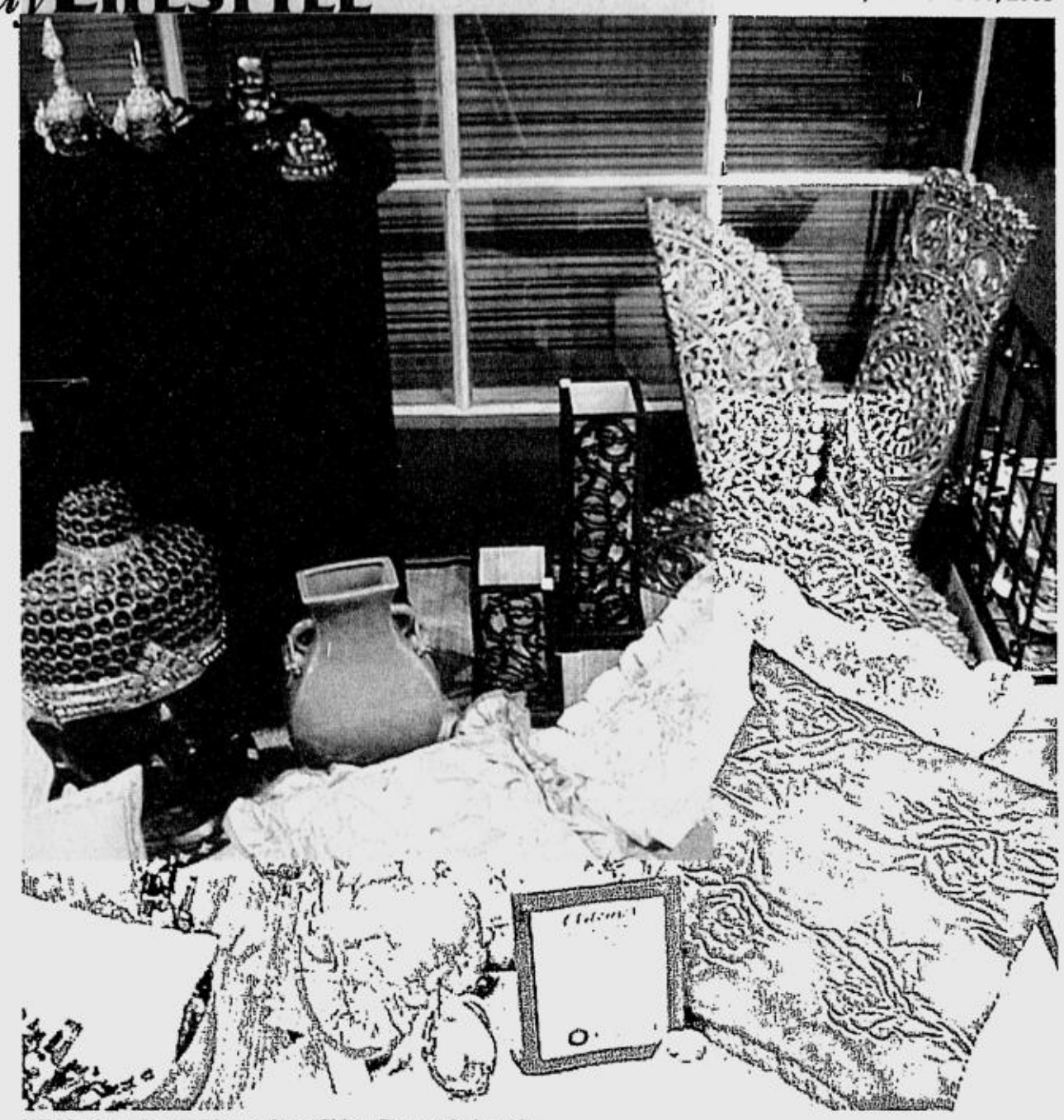
Right now, Tan and Uy-Yiu are negotiating for sole distributorship in the Philippines.

Tan and Uy-Yiu's bead jewelry under the label "eight" are also available at Ish, Astoria Plaza, Ortigas Center and Souk, San Miguel Building, Ortigas Center.

CMM Home & Lifestyle Gallery (tels. 5334364/5359240), is located at 54 Libertad St., Highway Hills, Mandaluyong.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

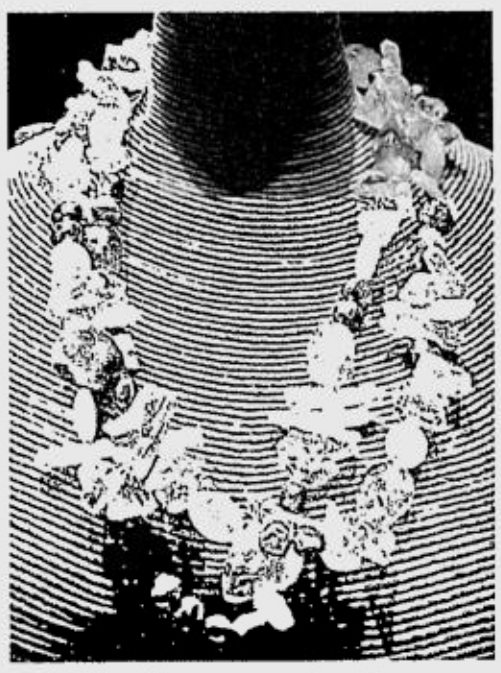
A passionate quilter, Virginia Tan Manalo is one woman who doesn't like to see a quilt-free home



WALL décor, jars and lamps from China, Burma, Indonesia

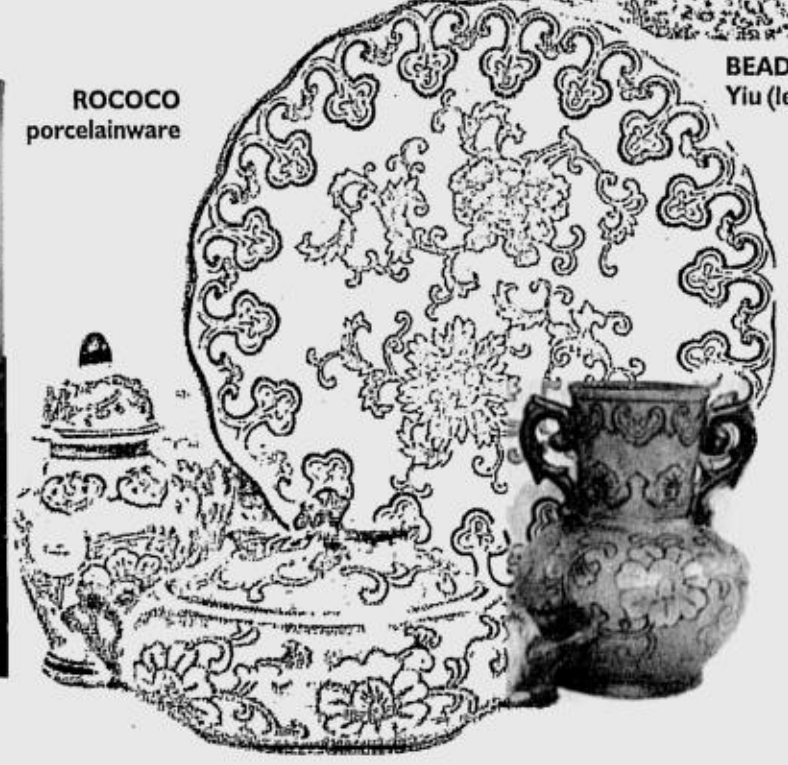
MEDICINE cabinets, ceramics, Buddha and candles from Thailand, Tibet and Burma

BEADMAKERS Lesley Uy-Yiu (left) and Cinderella Tan

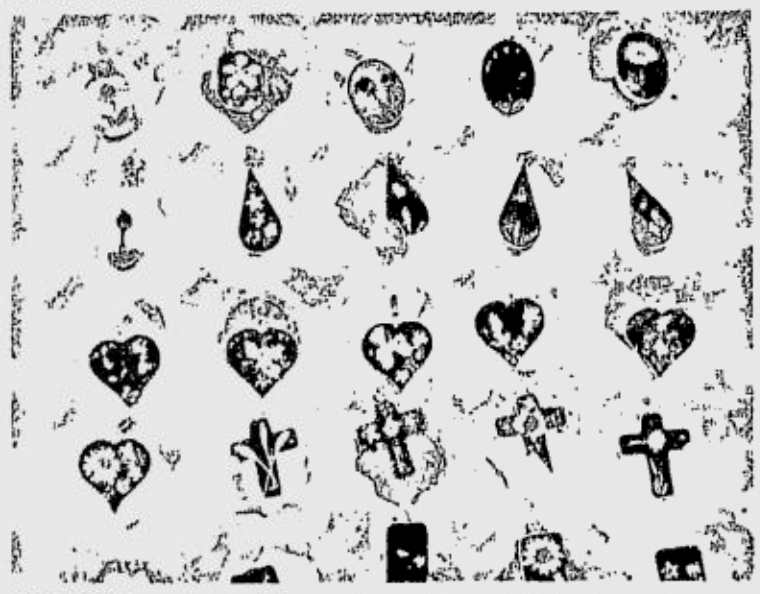


PEARL carnelian two-strand necklace

MUSLIN cotton floor and throw pillows from the Rami collection



ROCOCO porcelainware



ARTEMEX pendants, with real flowers, imported from Mexico

A bevy of birthday parties

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

The social scene lights up with a succession of grand affairs led by Angelita Lhuillier's lavish ball

ANGELITA Lhuillier (center) during her birthday bash, surrounded by children Amparito and Michel Lhuillier, Angie L. Mathieu, Margie Lhuillier (with arms around her mom), and Philippe and Eda Lhuillier

ANGELITA **Lhuillier** made a grand entrance in black velvet and gold mesh when all her guests were already at the Sinulog ballroom of the City Sports Club Cebu to celebrate her birthday.

Everyone stood up, clapped and those who were on her path rushed to kiss her.

All her children, and a good number of grandchildren, were present, headed by eldest daughter **Angie L. Mathieu.**

The occasion also marked the 39th wedding anniversary of eldest son **Michel Lhuillier** and his wife, the former **Amparito Llamas.** With them were their sons and their spouses—**Charles** and **Joanna Lhuillier** (*nee* **Palanca**), and **Michael** and **Joanna Lhuillier** (*nee* **Maitland-Smith**).

Philippe and **Edna Lhuillier** (*nee* **Diago**) came from their post in Rome where he is the Philippine Ambassador to Italy. Some of their children were present, like **Angie** and **Martin Miranda**, who make their home in Cebu, **Christine** and **Kevin Limjuco**, and **Jacqueline** and **Clinton Hess.**

Youngest daughter **Margie Lhuillier** flew in a few days before from Las Vegas to liven the party even more. Her children, who live and work in Cebu, were present—**Christopher** and **Kathy Darza** with pretty daughter **Amanda**, and **Claudine** and **Mikel Ugarte.**

Amparito had whipped up the event with her usual proficiency, from the menu to the dance music, plus everything in between.

Teresing Mendezona made the centerpieces, which were crystal containers on mirror panes stuffed with masses of red, red rosebuds. **Val Sandiego** was tasked with coming up with a program of song and dance numbers, including a hilarious performance by some bewigged, begowned and bespangled divas.

The evening's climax had **Chinggoy Alonso**, debonaire in tux, singing a full repertory of Broadway love songs to Angelita. Thus, "Dulcinea" from "Man of La Mancha" became a caressing "Angelita."

For the rest of the evening, it was dance music that played in the hall.

Enjoying every minute of the bash was **Nita Llamas**, Amparito's mom, who has moved to Cebu after many years in California and Las Vegas, Nevada. She has a beautiful apartment decorated by **Rosebud Sala**, at Maryville, quite close to where **Michel** and **Amparito** live.

In a special table were **Cheding del Rosario Chiongbian** and **Viring Romoff**, among the many friends who regularly play mahjong with the celebrator.

The group recently marked 50 years of playing for not-too-high stakes, but considerable "tong" which is gathered in a kitty. At year's end, this hefty amount is distributed to charity projects.

Fashion czarina

Viring R is a spry octogenarian, and is regarded as Cebu's fashion czarina. At her ancestral home, she sketches, cuts, sews and fits beautiful clothes for all occasions to dress up ladies from Cebu's high society.

Her birthday came two days after Angelita's, and it entailed a series of celebrations. Well wishers started to arrive for early morning mass and native breakfast. For the rest of the day, a steady caravan of cars brought more guests for brunch, lunch, *merienda* and dinner.

This year the buffet highlight consisted of succulent crabs from the north of Cebu.

Viring had another party for her playmates a couple of days after her big day, marked with lots of laughter and stories about her birthday celebration. Then her Happiness Group treated her to an elegant dinner at the latest fine dining waterhole to open in Cebu: Olio, owned by **Gladys Lim Uy**, at Crossroads.

Vivina Yrastorza had ordered the exquisite menu beforehand—Mindanao oysters with a spicy dash; Boulabaise; and Lapu-Lapu fillet doused in a cream sauce that is a trade secret.

Among those present were Dr. and Mrs. **Ramon Solano, Corazon Mercado, Milagring Borromeo, Marysol Putong** and **Jo Magsaysay.**

Asalto

When **Tina Unchuan's** birthday came along, everyone decided to make it an *asalto* at her home in White Sands. That's in Mactan, so the men decided to shop for fresh fish at the market near Magellan's monument. The results were great.

In no time at all it was also **Chinggay Utzurrum's** birthday, which she celebrated at Beehive. The specialty there is Cocido, and **Hazel Gonzalez** prepared one fabulous meal of it.

When it was **Chona Bernad's** turn to host a birthday bash, she suggested Casa Verde, a restaurant housed in what used to be the ancestral country home of her grandparents, **Don Mamerto** and **Doña Mena Escaño.** Some of the house's old recipes are now on the menu.

A CAKE ablaze for Chinggay Utzurrum

CHONA Bernad

CHINGGOY Alonso and wife Elizabeth

She and her first love are reunited

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

Since both of you have families now, use your second meeting to properly bid each other goodbye

DEAR Tita Dulce,

The saying "first love never dies" is true, because what is happening to Sonny and me proves it—after more than 20 years and after we're both married to someone else.

I did not long for him all that time, although I would still think of him sometimes. Then we met again, and it was one of the most exciting moments of my life! Now we communicate regularly, expressing what was dormant but never really left us: Our love for each other.

But we haven't gone beyond the limits of morality. We love our families and it is clear to both of us that we will never let our relationship give them any problem. We have no commitments, no expectations and no plans, just the wish to turn this "partnership" into a beautiful friendship.

But I also feel that he is a part of my life, and that a big part of me would be hollow if I am without him. I will choose my family over him anytime, and just knowing that we are here for each other is enough for both of us.

What do you think, Tita?

CHER

I think you wouldn't have asked what I thought if you were sure that you and Sonny are on the right path. I think you fear what lies ahead, and I think there's good reason for you to feel so.

Your situation indeed proves that first love never dies. But there's also a saying that "the road to perdition is littered with good intentions," and I'd hate to hear from you later that that is also true.

You and Sonny mean well, to resume a beautiful relationship but to observe the moral limits and keep your marriages intact and top priority. That would have been a perfect arrangement if it were not also a good formula for tempting the devil to butt in and wreck two marriages and two families in one blow.

For how long can you keep firewood close to a fire before it, too, ignites? How close can you nudge two magnets' opposite poles toward each other before they become powerless to each other's pull? How often can you tempt the devil and win?

You and Sonny must have good marriages or the two of you would not have sworn to protect your families from the risks of your special relationship. The best protection you can give them is to stop subjecting them to the threat that your special relationship poses.

If the two of you did not have a good closure two decades ago, now is the time for it. Look at your second meeting not as a chance to reunite but as an opportunity to properly bid each other goodbye. You may continue as friends, but as friends apart.

Annual retreat for widows

The annual retreat for widows sponsored by Pieta, a spiritual organization of widows, will be held at the OMI Retreat House (Oblate Missionary Center), Mangga St., Mapayapa Village, Capitol Site, Quezon City on Sept. 12-14. Rev. Fr. Yulito Ignacio of San Carlos Seminary will be the retreat master. Rev. Fr. Delfin Paulino Felipe, Pieta spiritual director, will also attend. Call Crescing de Jesus at 5317267, Aleli Ambrosio at 6388400, Gloria de Claro at 5327961, Ellen Pampolina at 5244310, Rose Cruz at 9220428 or Estela Cerdenia at (043) 4040433.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI office

Laguna's official choir performs in parishes and at CCP

HIMIG Sanghaya, Laguna's official choir and the reigning champion of the Youth Chorale Festival, is performing at the CCP Main Theater on September 1 and at the Sta. Rosa de Lima parish and St. Policarp parish in Cabuyao, Laguna on Sept. 2.

The choir will also be at the Umali Hall in Los Banos and at the St. John the Baptist Church in Calamba, Laguna on Sept. 5.

The group is one of the participating choirs in the 2003 Philippine International Choral Festival to be held this September 1-7 at the CCP.

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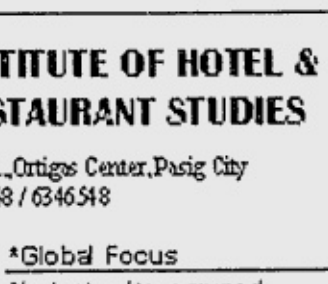

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SM Great value finds at HOME SALE

AN IRRESISTIBLE mix of great value buys on home furnishings are in store for shoppers at SM HomeWorld's month-long sale event. Slated to run through Aug. 31, SM Home Sale offers super deals that include 50 percent off on great selections, buy one take one bargains, attractive specials, and exciting bonus gifts.

On top of these spectacular "more value for your money" offers, SM HomeWorld has lined up a series of take home extras in the form of weekly Free Gifts.

Shoppers with a minimum single receipt purchase worth P500 at the Linen, Décor, Glassware, Plasticware or Kitchenware section can take home their choice of free gifts for the week.

On the other hand, a minimum single receipt purchase worth P5,000 or P20,000 at the Furniture Section entitles shoppers to the corresponding free gifts of the week. Furniture items are available at SM North Edsa, SM Cubao, SM Ortigas, SM Manila, SM Las Pinas, SM Bacoor and SM Home Center Makati.

At the Décor Section, novelty alarm clocks are specially priced at P50 each while decorative planters in antique finish are on sale at 20 percent off.

Decorative planters in antique finish

At the Linen Section, a bonanza of choices is showcased for homemakers on the lookout for quality beddings. Selected bed linen, for instance, are on sale at up to 50 percent off.

Canadian Bed-in-a-Bag (Comforter, Fitted Sheet and 2 pillowcases)

Canadian Bed-in-a-bag sets are among the hottest buys shoppers should go for. Available in assorted designs and sizes, each set includes one comforter, one fitted sheet, two pillowcases and a free Canadian Towel.

Town & Country, another popular brand, offers buy one take one deals on 20"x30" pillowcases, while Goodnight Pillows offer customers one free pillow for every purchase.

At the Kitchenware Section, selected small kitchen appliances in varied styles and colors may be purchased at big savings.

Cordless kettles

ADVT.

Globe Telecom Business Center launches Great Island Celebrations

The season is ripe for festivities as Globe Telecom Business Center (GTBC) ushers in a regional promo caravan aptly called Great Island Celebrations. GTBC has partnered with Islands Souvenirs, a young and dynamic brand celebrated for its creative Filipino-inspired themes, for a special in-store promo to celebrate the biggest local festivals or the latest Globe center opening launch in key provincial areas.

The first leg of Great Island Celebrations has begun at four sure-fire provincial crowd drawers, namely, the Mantawi Festival in Cebu, Kadayawan sa Davao, Patronal (Pavvurulun) Town Fiesta in Tuguegarao and Kagay-an Festival in Cagayan de Oro. Until August 31, all Globe Telecom Business Centers in these locations are giving away specially-designed Islands Souvenirs t-shirts for all new G-Plan subscriptions and a free Islands Souvenirs cap for every purchase of a Sony Ericsson T100 prepaid phone kit.

The campaign kicked off with a small gathering for key officials of Globe Telecom and Islands Souvenirs to seal the partnership. Guests were in high spirits as they discussed upcoming events at Store Super, decked for the evening with native trimmings to match the campaign's theme. Islands Souvenirs president Jay Aldeguer and VP for Marketing Lyndon Angan flew in from Cebu for the event. Sony Ericsson general manager Dennis Manzano and Marketing Director Patrick Larraga were also on hand to support the regional drive.

Globe Telecom's dynamic and energetic regional heads arrived in full force: Vince Ong, Vismin Regional Head; Ricky Chan, North Luzon Regional Head and Blue Avelino, South Luzon Regional Head. Throwing in their support are Corporate Marketing Director Archie Monzon and Media and Advertising Head Dodo Reyes.

Islands Souvenirs has designed a special t-shirt and cap for the "Great Island Celebrations" promo. These items come free with every new G Plan subscription or purchase of a Sony-Ericsson prepaid phonekit at GTBC.

Patty Forbes, Globe Telecom Retail Marketing senior manager, says Great Island Celebrations pays tribute to the unique color and flavor of the numerous fiestas and beautiful local areas in the Philippines. "We wanted to put the spotlight on the different regions with a campaign that captures what is interesting and enjoyable about these islands." Vince Ong, Vismin Regional Head adds, " the creative local flavor aligns with Globe's regional expansion plans in fully tapping key provincial markets".

(L-R) Jay Aldeguer, Islands Souvenirs President; Vince Ong, Globe Telecom Regional Head-VisMin; Patty Forbes, Globe Telecom Senior Manager-Retail Marketing; and Patrick Larraga, Sony Ericsson Marketing Director

For her part, senior manager for Pre-paid Acquisitions Ailene Averion notes how Globe Telecom is continually reaching out to subscribers in regional areas through fiestas and events like the ever-popular Intensity G campaigns. "Great Island Celebrations is an ideal complement to Intensity G. It certainly adds to the excitement plus offers better value for consumers as we visit more areas across the country."

Check out the latest phone models and avail of cool freebies with Globe Telecom Business Center Exclusives.

Expect GTBC to add life, color and Globe Technology to the scene when Great Island Celebrations arrives at your hometown in the coming days. ■

(L-R) Dennis Manzano, Sony Ericsson Gen. Manager; Jay Aldeguer, Island Souvenirs President; Lyndon Angan, Islands Souvenirs VP-Marketing; Raya Roa-Gonzalez, Globe Telecom Head-Retail Marketing ; Vince Ong, Globe Telecom Regional Head-VisMin; and Blue Avelino, Globe Telecom Regional Head-South Luzon

Globe Telecom Business Center celebrates local fiestas and store openings with a regional promo caravan that offers great freebies in partnership with *Islands Souvenirs*.

Avail of a wide array of the latest phones bundled with promos and other exciting packages.

ADVT.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

FROM golden *salakot* to red hat. Sin receives the Cardinal's biretta from Pope Paul VI. Even if he's retired as archbishop, he can still vote for the next Pope until he reaches 80.

The triumph of Sin

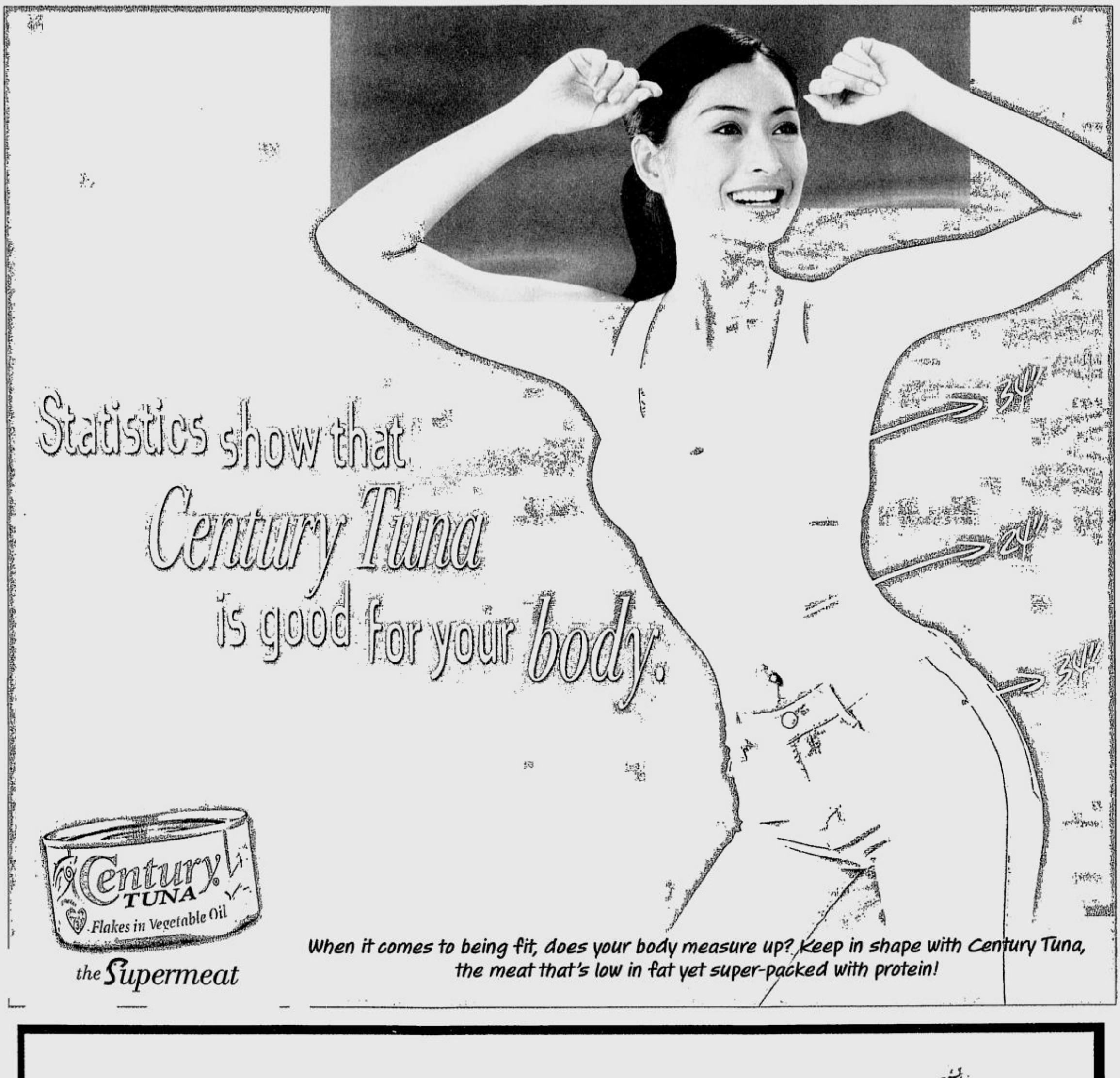
From page A1

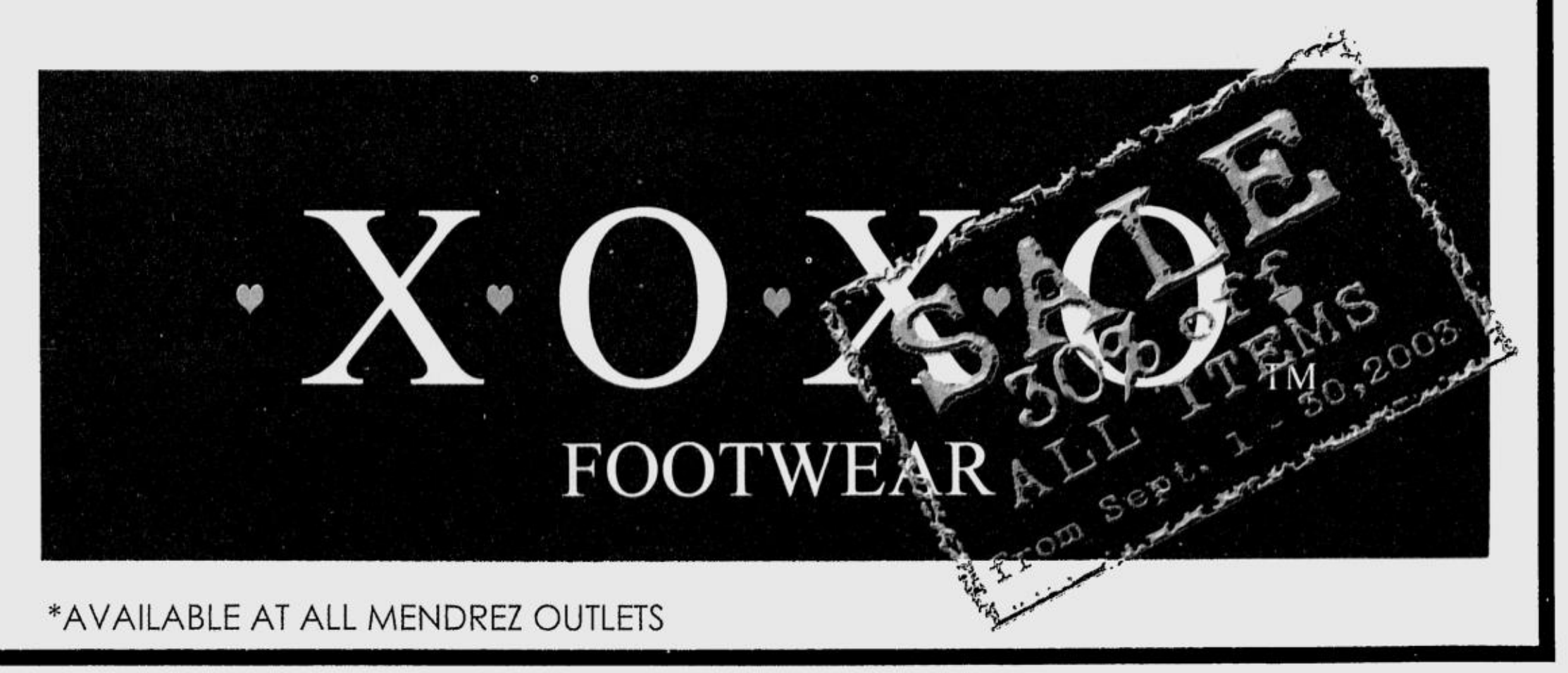
But if grace builds on nature, God's handiwork and legacy are quite evident in the domain of Sin: A robust faithful sprawled over a huge archdiocese of nearly 10 million people, now carved up into several suffragan dioceses so that, as Sin told this paper, the "approach of the Church will be more personal and direct"; a continuing increase in vocations that, while not any nearer to improving the priest-to-parishioners ratio any time soon, gives the lie to the secularist boast that the Church is dying as it is in much of the Old World; a financial position which, while not as thriving as when Sin took over from the late Cardinal Rufino Santos, is still healthy, so much so that Manila remains the world's richest archdiocese, after New York or Boston, depending on who's making the accounting; and most important, a host of social justice programs in poverty assistance, housing for the poor and defense of human rights that somehow realize the Church's preferential option for the poor.

To be sure, the legacy and handiwork are often painted in terms political rather than spiritual, underscored when political hopefuls make a beeline to Villa San Miguel, the House of Sin, to get the prelate's blessing or at least a semblance of it.

The President herself might have gotten a semblance of it when Cardi-

THE TRIUMPH/ J2





The triumph of Sin

From page J1

nal Sin urged her to run and, by implication, break her Rizal Day promise not to seek a new presidential mandate. But Sin told the INQUIRER he did not endorse the President.

"I encouraged but did not and will not endorse Ms Arroyo to run in 2004," he said.

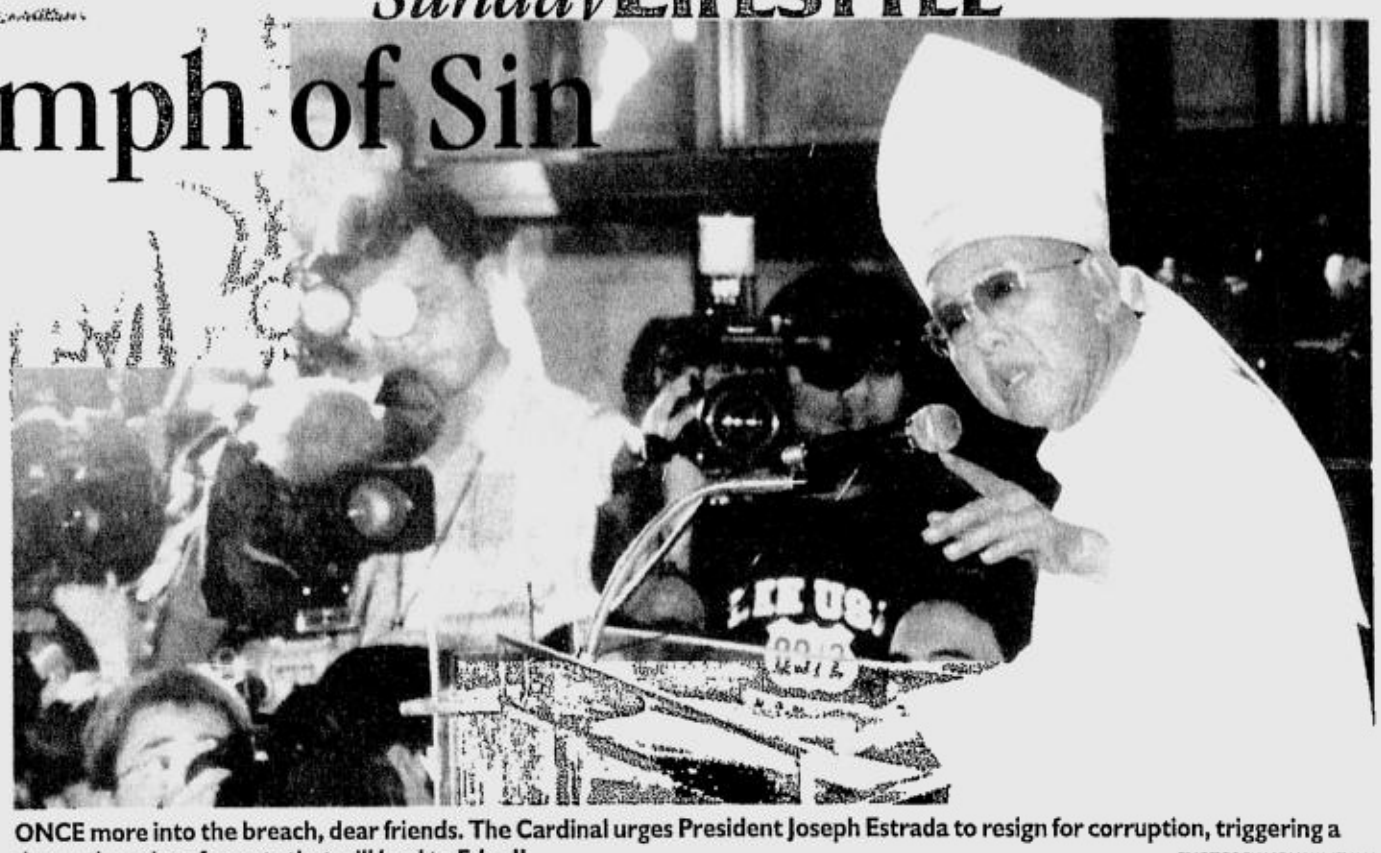
Most recently, the legacy in political colors was again displayed when he rushed to the aid of the fledgling government and staked the power and influence of the Church against the military rebels of the July incident. His statement in protection of the government determined much of the outcome of the stalemate. Against the false bravura of the Oakwood mutineers, the Cardinal fought with the full weight of the moral and institutional armory of the Church. The mutiny was doomed from the start because the voice of Sin is the voice of God.

The Cardinal had found himself in similar situations before, notably during the coup-prone administration of President Corazon Aquino, during which he was not averse to throwing the mantle of protection of the centuries-old Church over the government against macho officers and soldiers who dared question the legitimacy and leadership of women commanders-in-chief.

During those incidents, the Cardinal was perceived to have performed the role of a knight in shining armor to damsels in distress, a portrayal he would be the first to deny, since, as in nearly all of his political interventions, he would say he usually cowers under the skirts of women—notably of the contemplative nuns of the Poor Clares, the Pink Sisters and the Carmelites, as well as the active Dominican and RVM sisters who form his household staff—who usually take up the battle for him.

The sisters are his "powerhouse," he usually says. Along with the Blessed Mother, they are his secret weapons.

In all of his key political interventions, especially Edsa I and II, the touch of Sin never faltered because they were guided and empowered by the maternal hands of the Blessed Mother and her mystical Amazons.



ONCE more into the breach, dear friends. The Cardinal urges President Joseph Estrada to resign for corruption, triggering a dramatic series of events that will lead to Edsa II.

PHOTOS BY NOLI YAMSUAN

WITH Pope John Paul II during the 1995 papal visit. Sin has rapport with the Pope who, despite instructing clerics to avoid politics, looked the other way when the Cardinal led the two Edsa revolutions.

The influential archbishop is retiring, but his arch-critics and enemies cannot yet say, 'Sin no more'

Church on all fronts

In taking care to explain the spiritual dynamics behind his most brazen political acts, Sin shows the magnificent vision of the Catholic Church that links in one indissoluble chain the City of Man and the City of God.

It is a vision that is often challenged by critics when Sin and the Church are perceived to have sallied into political terrain, a vision Sin himself prefigured when, as the new archbishop of Manila, he explained the Church's tack toward the martial law government of Ferdinand Marcos:

"The separation between the Church and the State is a reality that I accept," he said. "But separation... should not necessarily mean isolation. Nor should it connote a lack of cooperation."

To be sure, the Church of Manila has never been isolated and insular under Sin. It is a Church that is on all fronts—the mundane, the political and the jugular. It is a parallel government in itself, always combat-ready to take on government when it feels it is shortchanging or oppressing the people.

Because of this, Sin is perhaps the most political of the modern archbishops of Manila, which is not surprising since the See of Manila has historically been a power player.

The first bishop of Manila, the Dominican Domingo de Salazar (1581-1594), was a disciple of the great Bartolome de las Casas, the Apostle of the Indies, who fought for Indian rights in the New World against the depredations of the conquistadors.

Salazar himself fought tooth and nail against the Spanish civilian and military authorities for oppressing the Filipinos. He even dared question the King of Spain about what right Spain and Christianity had in taking over the natives. Salazar also tackled mundane tasks to alleviate the plight of the Filipinos, such as quarrying in the mouth of Pasig River so that the Filipinos could have stone materials to build their houses and stop living in *nipa* tinderboxes.

In the heady political climate of the last 30 years, Sin has thrived as a deft political player. But he always denies any base political agenda.

"I do not espouse any human ideology, nor support any political party, nor advocate a mere social cause," he told the INQUIRER. "As a Christian and as a priest, I believe in the Kingdom of God inaugurated by Jesus Christ. My agenda is the Gospel of the Lord. The mission I receive from the Church is to transform the world with the values of Christ. If ever I get involved in issues political or otherwise, it is simply because I cannot compromise the Christian faith I am called to uphold, defend and promote."

Amazing Sin

The wages of Sin are many, but death and waste are not among them. Consider:

After the American Michael J. O'Doherty, who was archbishop of Manila from 1916 to 1949, Cardinal Jaime Sin is the longest serving archbishop of Manila, having reigned in the premiere See of the Philippines and Asia since 1974. Practically a generation of Manila Catholics has not known any cardinal but Sin.

When he was given the red hat in 1976, Sin, at that time 48, was the youngest member of the College of Cardinals and was so for many years.

The elevation was a fitting culmination to a highly precocious and astounding ecclesiastical career: A diocesan seminary builder at 25, a seminary rector at 26, a domestic prelate or monsignor at 31, an auxiliary bishop at 38, an apostolic administrator at 41, a coadjutor archbishop with the right of succession at 43, the archbishop of Jaro, Iloilo City at 44, and the archbishop of Manila at 45.

Cardinal Sin was instrumental in convincing Pope John Paul II to come to Manila in 1981 and beatify Lorenzo Ruiz and his companion martyrs, the first beatification outside of Rome in Christian history.

SIN OF THE POOR. Amid perceptions that the Church is affluent and pro-rich, the Cardinal has always taken the side of the poor. Here, he blesses shantytown dwellers in San Andres, Manila.

SIN RETURNS to Manila from Rome a Cardinal in 1976.

THE DALAI Lama in the 'House of Sin'

Because of his multicultural roots (his father was from Xiamen in Southern China) and his prestigious international profile, Cardinal Sin has performed important quasi-diplomatic functions for the Vatican. He visited China in 1984 and got a first-hand look at the Catholics there who belonged to the state-approved Patriotic church and to the underground church which has remained faithful to Rome.

Although the Beijing papers did not carry a line of his visit, multitudes assembled at his Masses and jostled at one another to get his blessing, a significant proof that the ancient faith had remained robust despite severe state control and even persecution.

In 1987, the Cardinal visited the Soviet Union and showed equipoise and deftness in playing an international game of brinkmanship. Receiving a surprise invitation from the Soviets to visit what Reagan called "the evil empire," Sin forthwith acceded but demanded something that the Pope had asked of Moscow but did not get—a trip to Lithuania, seat of Catholicism in the Soviet Union.

He got it, and Sin, who knew he was getting the royal treatment as a propaganda tool of the East against the West, played along but, as in China, he tried by his presence and words to deepen the fervor and conviction of the Catholics in the perennial faith. Three years later, Communism crumbled.

And, of course, Cardinal Sin is the only prelate in history to have led two popular and successful revolutions. The 1986 Edsa revolution ushered in the pro-democracy tide around the world that swept away fascist dictatorships in South Korea, Thailand, Pakistan and Latin America, and that tore down the Iron Curtain and sank Communism in Europe and much elsewhere.

Sinful puns

If he had not accomplished all of this, he would still have an entry in history for being the only Sin to have been glorified by the Church and elevated to the Cardinalate at that. His is the name that has inspired a prolific generation of punsters, here and abroad.

When he became archbishop, Jullie Yap Daza wrote in her column in mock-horror, "How can anybody named Sin be archbishop of Manila?"

Pressed to explain why the Vatican chose Sin, the apostolic nuncio, Msgr. Bruno Torpigliani, told the press he had been instructed by the Pope to recommend a man with distinction and competence, and so he asked for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

As he read the day's liturgy, he said the passage from the Lord's Prayer—"Deliver us from sin"—kept intruding in his thoughts. Ergo, he said, it was a sign from the Holy Spirit. God had chosen Sin.

Because of Sin's political activism, Marcos' justice secretary, Vicente Abad Santos, lashed out at the clergy for being "amateurs in political science."

The Cardinal answered back in an address before the Rotary Club: "Government is much too important a business to be left in the hands of politicians and political scientists... Perhaps what our country needs at this point are amateurs, amateurs who have not been made blasé by the realities of politics..."

The Rotarians gave him a rousing ovation. One of them remarked, "It was a case of a good Sin correcting a bad Santos."

When the Cardinal marked his 10th year as Manila archbishop, Msgr. Josefino Ramirez, at that time the vicar general, wrote a book. It was titled "A Decade of Sin."

When the Cardinal received one of his several honorary doctorates from American higher education institutions in the wake of the 1986 revolution, he was escorted to the investiture by the vice president of the St. Michael's College in Vermont, Fr. Thomas Hoar, SSE. The school paper promptly reported the event under the headline: "Hoar brings Sin to campus."

Some of the puns are so sinful that they detract from the man and his august office. But the Cardinal, who is known for his self-deprecating wit, seems to take it all in good humor. Again and again, the proof of the Sinning is in the punning.

Future of Sin

As he winds down his archbishopric, the Cardinal can only look back at the path that he has trodden and admit that, while it may hardly be straight, it still dovetails with the Kingdom of God. Definitely it still follows the spirit of his motto, "Serviam." After all, crooked lines reveal God's mysterious ways.

He said, having been a bishop for nearly four decades, he realized a bishop should listen while serving. "He recognizes the primacy of listening to God, thus the value of prayer and contemplation. A bishop must also listen to the people, thus the importance of dialogue and presence. He must know his flock and be involved in their daily realities. He cannot be apart from them and remain indifferent and insensitive."

Sin himself broke protocol when, early on as archbishop of Manila, he visited shantytowns in Pandacan and Paco. Under him, too, the archdiocese set up several housing sites for the poor.

There are still pressing needs, however.

"We must focus our attention especially on the poor and the youth," he said. "It is a stark fact that these two sectors are in the majority especially in our society."

The Cardinal called the poor and the youth "the treasures of the Church."

"We cannot ignore them," he said. "They are very precious in the eyes of God. I ardently pray our government would also take action to help them. It is very sad when greed and corruption take away what the poor and youth should have received."

The Church has current problems regarding some members of the clergy facing charges of sexual abuse, the Cardinal admitted. But he said the crisis could only strengthen the Church.

"This is a time of renewal and purification," he said. "I believe this period is a challenge for priests to become holier and more configured to Jesus."

The Cardinal insisted the controversies only buttressed the rule of celibacy.

"I firmly believe in the value of clerical celibacy," he said. "The Church has already seen the wisdom behind it. We cannot claim to be wiser than the Magisterium. Moreover, celibacy manifests self-transcendence, total availability and undivided self-giving. Celibacy makes a priest a better minister of Christ."

As for the Church's political activism, the Cardinal said the Church would always be active in "discerning the signs of the times," but this does not mean it will go either traditional or liberal.

"The Church is called to tread the path of God. And the way of God is neither traditional nor liberal. The Church always discerns the teachings of the Lord in response to the signs of the times. She is ever ancient, ever new."

He said he looked at the division of the archdiocese into several suffragan or independent dioceses as an opportunity for the Church to serve better the people (his die-hard critics, some from the clergy and faithful, look at the "balkanization" as a way to water down his influence).

"Being archbishop is not about power or influence," he explained. "It is about loving service. With the recent reorganization, the new archbishop and the other suffragan dioceses will be able to exercise better service. They will be closer to the priests and people. The approach of the Church will be more personal and direct. This change will elicit a family atmosphere which every Catholic wants."

The streamlining will also afford the Church and the bishops the chance to decentralize and involve the lay people more.

"A true bishop does not do things alone," he said. "He is able to harness the gifts and talents of everybody. He motivates and inspires. Like an orchestra conductor, a good bishop enables everybody to play his or her proper and contributory role. He makes the whole archdiocese one beautiful symphony of love and holiness!"

Of course, the big question is who will succeed Sin. The Cardinal did not want to speculate, but he offered advice.

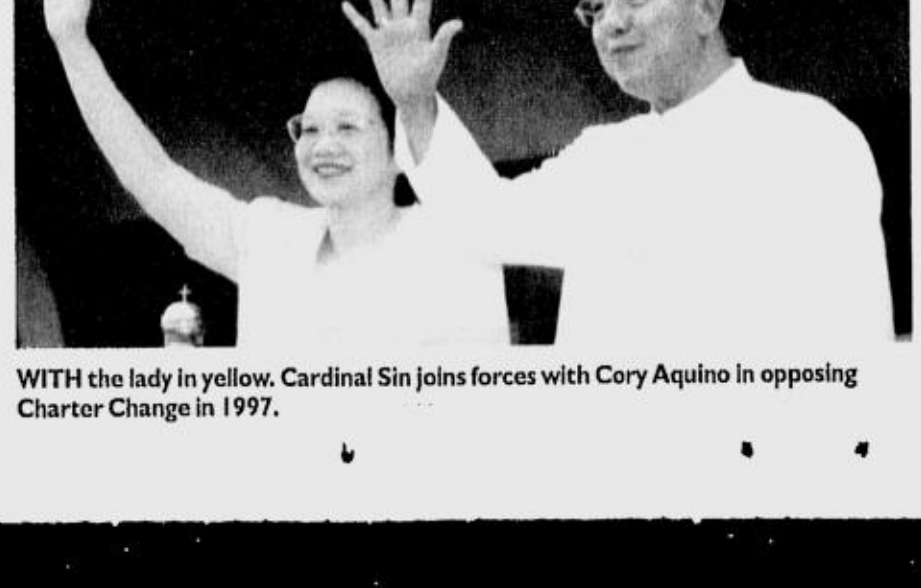
"Be a shining witness of Jesus' love to everyone," he said. "You are their servant-leader, not lord-master. Service is your mission. Love is your vocation. Be generous especially to the youth and the poor. Love your priests; they are your sons and closest co-workers. Be a man of unity and harmony."

It is farfetched that Sin would retire to Iloilo when the Vatican appoints his successor.

"I will stay in Manila," he said. "I will continue to love and serve. I will continue to pray and make sacrifices for the people I love very dearly, cross my heart!"

He may leave Villa San Miguel, but the Cardinal will bring with him the moral and spiritual sword of the Archangel to strike and slay the dragons of pride and greed in both spiritual and social realms.

There is simply no end to Sin.



WITH the lady in yellow. Cardinal Sin joins forces with Cory Aquino in opposing Charter Change in 1997.

Loboc Children's Choir goes on tour to help rebuild church

THE LOBOC Children's Choir is scheduled to fly to Europe on the first week of September on a concert tour dubbed "Tubod," which means "wellspring" in Visayan or Boholano.

My friend Gardy Labad, manager of the Loboc Children's Choir, tells me that the town of Loboc is immersed in its music and cultural heritage as a pledge of thanksgiving to the Our Lady of Guadalupe who, on May 24, 1876, protected the town when the Loboc River rose and threatened to flood it.

The Loboc Children's Choir was formed in 1980 through the guidance of Alma Fernando Taldo, its able *maestra* and conductor.

The concert tour will bring the choir to all countries in Europe. Funds raised from this tour will help rehabilitate the church and convent of Loboc, and possibly build a Music Museum that would serve as a training center for would-be singers and musicians.

Organized under the auspices of the Metropolitan Museum, the concert tour needs more funds for tickets and other expenses. Text Gardy Labad at 0920-8431929 or call Ino Manalo of MET at 5211517.

A farewell concert will take place on Sept. 2 at the Studio in Riverbank, Marikina. Sponsored by the Pinatubo sa Pagkakaisa Foundation, the concert will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at the gate.

Virgen de los Remedios

We had written before about the original image of the Virgen de los Remedios in barrio Baliti, San Fernando, Pampanga.

A replica of this image, carved in 1956, is housed in the Chancery Chapel in Barangay San Jose in the city of San Fernando. Every Sept. 8, the image, together with the Santisimo Cristo del Perdon, are brought out to commemorate the canonical coronation of the Virgen de los Remedios, in a procession from the Cathedral back to the Chancery Chapel where it had been taken a month before.

This year the celebration will be held at the open space of the Villa del Sol (along the San Fernando-Olongapo Road) in barrio Dolores. Beginning at 2 p.m. on Sept. 8, a floral offering will take place. The event will be preceded by a concelebrated mass officiated by Archbishop Panciano Aniceto of the Diocese of San Fernando at the Metropolitan Cathedral.

The need to have a replica arose when the people of Baliti did not want to give their image of the Virgen de los Remedios for pilgrim visits to the towns in Pampanga.

Bishop Cesar Ma. Guerrero created the *cruzada* of the Santisimo Cristo de Perdon and the Virgen de los Remedios in 1952 to bring peace to the province, then plagued by violence due to social unrest. The *cruzada* would collect from generous people rice, sugar, clothes, money and other goods for distribution to the poor.

The first visit of the Marian image was in Masantol on May 1, 1952. The recitation of the Holy Rosary was continuously observed in the parish church and a procession was ordered along the main streets of the town. The same activities were done in every parish visited by the image. The offering of rice, sugar, clothes and money would be brought along when the image was transferred to another parish and given away to poor people in that area.

In time, the *cruzada* gained a great number of devotees.

The image of the Santisimo Cristo del Perdon was carved and jointly presented with the image of the Virgen de los Remedios for public veneration and penance. This is the reason why the image of the Santisimo Cristo del Perdon is first during the procession. The people would see first the image of Christ before His Mother, in order to atone and ask forgiveness for their sins prior to their request for blessings from the Virgin Mary.

The three succeeding Archbishops of San Fernando, namely, Most Rev. Emilio Cinense, Most Rev. Oscar Cruz and Most Rev. Paciano Aniceto, intensified the *cruzada* in terms of helping the needy, fostering unity between the rich and poor and promoting peace in the province.

In the same year that the replica was presented for public veneration, the Pope approved its canonical coronation, the 47th anniversary of which the people are celebrating this year.

Through the efforts of philatelist Jorge Cuyugan, a commemorative stamp honoring the Virgen de los Remedios will also be launched on Sept. 8 at 9:30 a.m. at the Center of Kapampangan Studies in Holy Angel University in Angeles City.

Special guests are Archbishop Panciano Aniceto, Postmaster General Diomedio Villanueva, the assistant Postmaster Generals and Fr. Mar Miranda, parish priest of Baliti.

God provides

"God Provides" is the title of a book featuring the favors granted by God through the intercession of St. Josemaria Escriva.

Published by Friends of Art and Arts Unlimited in partnership with Gabriel Books, the book tells stories about cures, religious conversions, visas obtained, jobs and suitable partners found, even exams passed through the saint's intercession.

The book will be launched on the following dates: Sept. 5 at 6 p.m. in Fully Booked place in Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center; Sept. 8 at 3 p.m., University of Asia and the Pacific on Pearl Drive, Pasig; and Sept. 9 at 10 a.m. at Hotel Vivere in Alabang. Text Poy Pantaleon at 0917-8404040. Monina Allarey-Mercado is the editor.

Resplendent cathedral

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Boston St., Cubao looked resplendent during the installation of the new bishop of Cubao, Most Rev. Honesto Ongtioco, last Aug. 28.

Painter Rafael del Casal was the designer of the interiors, with Dr. Raffy Lopez as the production manager and Francisco Vecin doing the different images. Fr. Daniel Santa-

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

maria is the parish priest.

Marian pilgrimage

The Daughters of Immaculate, Bataan Diocesan Circle, is joining a pilgrimage of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary that will leave on Sept. 28, with Bishop Honesto Ongtioco as chaplain.

The pilgrimage includes Rome, Pompeii, Monte Cassino Abbey, Venice, St. Anthony of Padua, Vienna, Salzburg and Bavaria, including the passion play village of Oberammergau and the fairy tale Neuschwanstein Castle.

In Switzerland, the group will ride a cable car up a mountain snow resort. They will also pray at La Sallete of the Marian apparitions, see the medieval walled town of Carcassone, visit the Black Madonna of Montserrat in Barcelona and the La-

The concert tour dubbed 'Tubod' will bring the 26-member choir to all countries in Europe

dy of the Pillar in Zaragoza, and swing by Lourdes, Paray Le Monial (to see the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus) Paris and London.

Call Adam's Express Travel at 5211651-38.

LOBOC Children's Choir

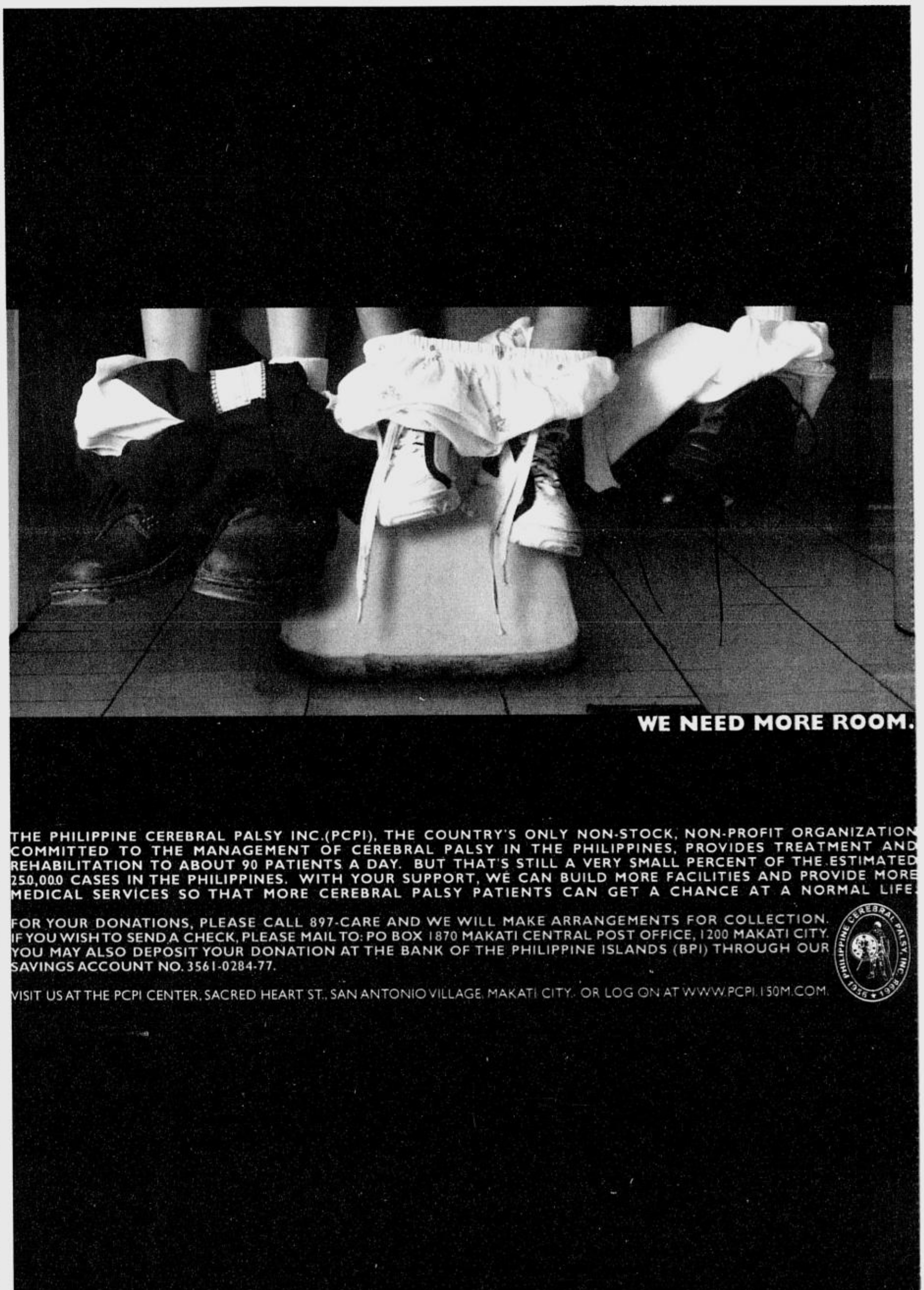
Massage healing

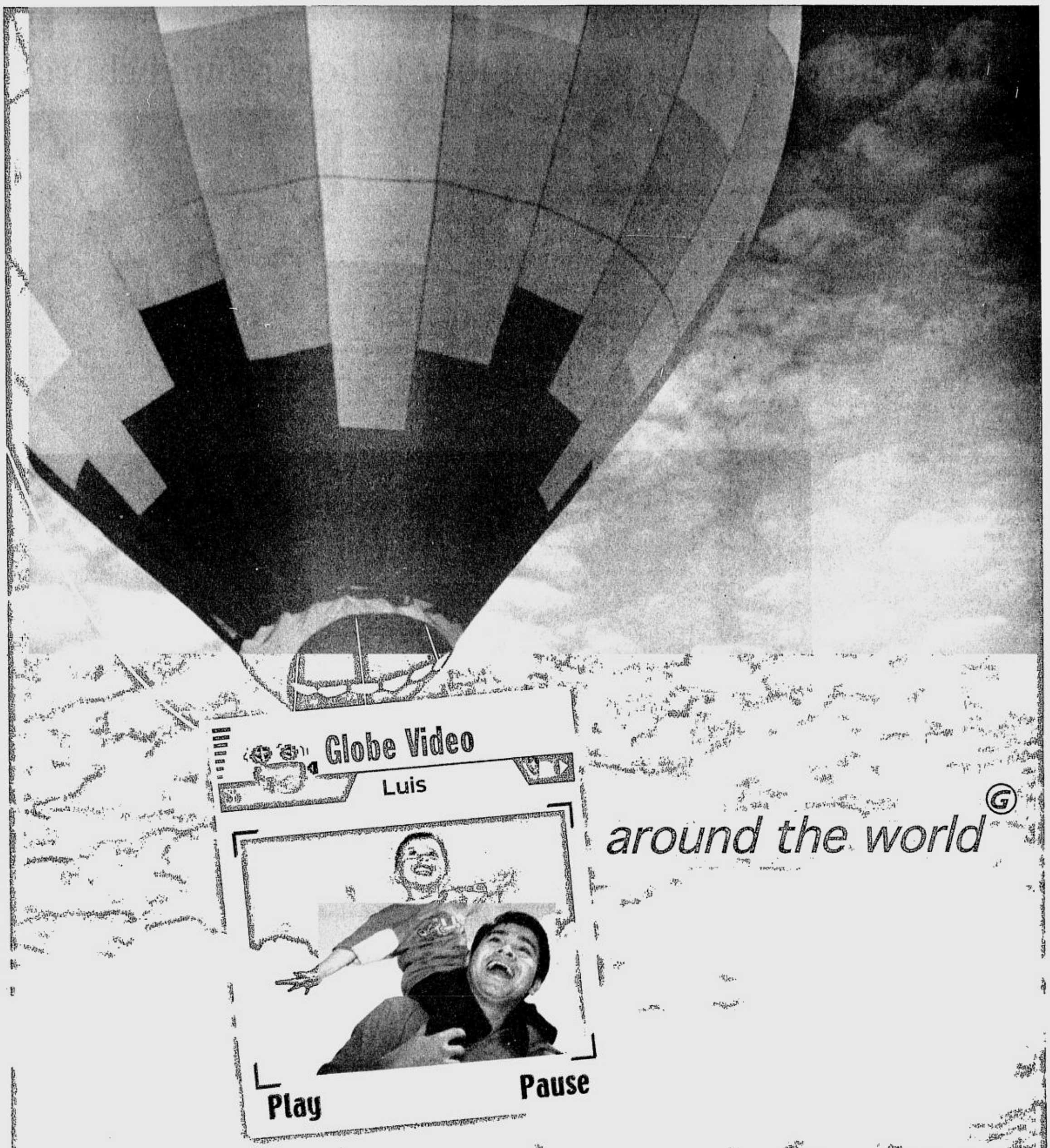
It takes an expert to tell you that your body needs rejuvenation. Submit yourself to a series of massages and to what is called "lymphatic drain" to rid your body of toxins that cause sickness.

Edge Lopez, who is a licensed therapist, uses aromatherapy oils like lavender, peppermint and chamomile for the massage. Before applying the "lymphatic drain," the body must go through seven sessions of body massages. Text him at 0919-4202854 or call 7297558.

A rich healthy life through wholistic coaching by two physics can also be achieved. By ridding the mind of negative thoughts and concentrating on the positive aspects in your life, you can be happy. Text Ali Rich Garcia at 0917-6102203. Call Art Barrenueve at 8111815.

Happy Birthday, Cardinal Sin!





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A heroic heritage running through our veins

FILIPINOS need not look far beyond in search of their own heroes. History indicates that the Philippines has produced a plethora of heroes we all can be truly proud of. People—celebrated or unsung—worthy of emulation. Or better yet, people whose deeds and ideals must be continued to ensure a brighter future for generations to come.

But let us not be misled that only great-celebrated acts are the ones that should be regarded as heroic. Simple acts of kindness by ordinary people undeniably make a palpable difference in this chaotic world.

The heroes of our past had a vision for a better country. Their beliefs that Filipinos are capable of making a huge difference in their lives can be called "heroic."

But the fact is that these heroes, dreaming of a better Philippines for Filipinos, acted on this dream with a brand of heroism that is something to be admired, and never forgotten.

Even in this day and age, this country is not scarce of heroes. All people have to do is look around and recognize.

Sometimes, heroism is measured by an individual's sense of nationhood; or faith in their own capabilities.

This year, the Galing Pilipino Movement (GPM) puts this sense of heroism in the forefront. It looks back and brings the past today to relive Filipino's *kagalingan* with the hope that it will continue forth, blossom to the full, at last.

GPM founding president Erly de Guzman said: "By tracing our roots, we get to appreciate our heroic heritage."

In retrospect, did you ever realize that the Ifugaos had created an architectural masterpiece out of the need to sustain their community's food supply? It may be a far cry to how Filipinos are depicted nowadays. The tribes of Ifugao used primitive tools, made use of their bare hands, armed with unmatched creativity, and the strong desire to sustain livelihood is something that other nations admire to this day. It must be noted that among the eight wonders of the world, only the Ifugao Rice Terraces was not built by slave labor.

"This proves that the spirit of excellence is not a thing of the past," De Guzman said.

Dr. Landa Jocano says, "The portrayal of our history has been unkind, glorifying failures and shortcomings but ignoring the courage and valor Filipinos admirably exhibited under adverse conditions. Research yields outstanding facts on Filipinos as trade partners. Although not highlighted on some history books, Filipinos were a trusted lot by neighboring countries when it came to business matters.

This belies the popular belief that colonizers civilized our country. In our own standards, the Philippines was a civilized country. Our ancestors had their own means of commerce accepted by their trade partners. It is time to see ourselves right. Let us begin to correct that view today as we celebrate National Heroes' Day.

This belief in the locals' immeasurable competence is evident even in today's world.

Apolinario Mabini was a national hero who had put so much faith in Filipinos.

Before war erupted, Mabini felt that he had to be with the people, and constantly reminded them of what they could do to achieve justice and not to lose hope in the future. He respected the voice of the people. He knew that once people knew how to properly use their rights, a better future was not that far behind. This fact is reflected in his work "La Revolucion Filipina."

In the book "Mabini and the Philippine Revolution," it was written that [Mabini believed] the transformation of willing something for personal advantage to that of the good of all was an essential indication of patriotism.

Three presidents of our country proved that Filipinos are exceptional in their own ways. They were the epitome of an honest leadership, knew their ethics, and most of all, knew what they were doing.

This line may be familiar to every Filipino: My loyalty to my party ends where my loyalty to my country begins. Manuel L. Quezon fought aggressively for Philippine independence from the United States.

Quezon's strong leadership quality proved beneficial for the country. As he was given enough powers to lead the country in the early years of his presidency, Quezon was able to put order in the government.

Anticipating the eventuality of war in 1941, Quezon made a move to protect the people from the damage it would bring. With the emergency powers given to him by the National Assembly, the Civilian Emergency Administration was born the same year. His presidency passed many acts that are still in use today.

Quezon proved that his leadership withstood the test of time, confirming that Filipinos have what it takes to withstand whatever storm may besiege them.

Joining forces with Sergio Osmeña and Quezon, Manuel Roxas was also a key figure in Philippine history. The three were a dominant force in Philippine politics for more than two decades.

Being the first president of the New Republic, Roxas was faced with the job of leading a nation that was damaged by war. This task seemed unattainable, but Roxas helped rehabilitate the country by making crucial decisions. He knew that reviving the economy was the starting point, so he created the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation.

Once during the Japanese Occupation, Roxas refused to hold any key position in the so-called "puppet government." He was also one of many Filipinos who played a vital role in drafting the Constitution.

Ramon Magsaysay could be considered the best loved among the Philippine presidents. Although short-lived, his presidency is one of the most fondly remembered. He earned the moniker "Man of the Masses", or the "people president" because of his hands-on style of presidency.

He is known to have pushed for positive nationalism. Magsaysay's presidency was marked by his efforts to defeat the Huks. The true Filipino that he was, he helped those who surrendered rebuild their lives by giving them a viable and honorable source of income for their families.

To prove heroes are not scarce in modern times, Benigno Aquino Jr. became the key figure in helping the Filipino people realize that they could topple a military rule. His eloquence alone and strong conviction of his principles were enough to inspire. The determination to prove that "Filipinos are (indeed) worth dying for" became the rallying point for nationalists to stand up and take action.

Filipinos are known to set trends when it comes to expressing their nationalist fervor. The People Power Revolution opened doors for other nations to follow—a bloodless revolution is, indeed, possible. And people power proves, once and for all, that not only well-known and influential individuals could make changes in society, but the average man on the street can win a nation's freedom.

Eminent anthropologist Dr. Jocano strongly believes that, "THE VISION OF OUR FUTURE MUST BE ROOTED IN A CORRECT IMAGE OF THE PAST." Let us see ourselves in the right way, act in that belief accordingly and we will bring out the "hero" in the Filipino.

Prinsipyong Galing Pilipino

Ang galing, sa sarili
manggagaling.

Kung ang galing ipapamalas,
'di ka dadatnan ng malas.

Hindi kailangang trabaho'y
sikat upang galing
mo'y sumikat.

Kung paglilingkod sa
kapwa ang
iyong hangarin, kahit maliit
na gawa ay kahanga-hanga rin.

Sa lahat ng bagay, todo-bigay!

Hanep sa hanapbuhay.

Hangga't 'di sapat, 'di
papaawat.

Anuman ang sumapit,
tuloy sa pag-awit.

May ibang paraan pa sa
nakasanayan na.

Sa trabaho, pati buong mundo
saludo.

Sugod Galing, E

Redefining the Filipino

Galing Pilipino Movement

Ang Galing Mo!

The Galing Pilipino Movement (GPM) the charge that will spur this nation to foste al pride and to engender a climate of affirm brand mark of being Pilipino.

There's a hero in every Filipino... in a teenage girl giving up her seat for an elderly man in the bus little boy next door who picks up a hapless kitten in the gutter along the street... or a security guard returned a considerable amount of money to a customer even if he was in dire need of money for his

Chivalry? Heroism? Call it whatever you want...but having a good heart is an innate trait almos have. Only, people sometimes fail to notice because... we witness these outstanding acts every-d lives. In short, it is a natural thing for Filipinos to do something good, something great, something h

"Heroes are people who have left an indelible mark in history," writes GPM president Erly de Guzr article last year, "In my books, not necessarily history books nor *encarta* files."

The hero tag is not exclusive to popular individuals who have done great collective things for the To be called a hero you don't have to die for something noble; you don't have to be always in the lin

"Ordinary Filipinos doing ordinary things extraordinarily well," she writes.

For a minute in a day, think about the small things you've seen around you and how people react tain situations. You'll be surprised at how good and exceptional Filipinos are.

We look up to Filipinos who made it big in the international scene. We are proud of course. But hav er thought of how parents are able to send their children to good schools in spite of and despite the economically trying time?

Sportsmen, artists, businessmen, OFWs, or in whatever field you put a Filipino, there will always that have excelled. They faced the hurdles and competition of other nations and proved what we made of.

"Let us make Galing Pilipino resonate with deeper meaning in our hearts. . .in our minds. . .in th of our being a Filipino," De Guzman writes.

Pakitang-Gilas

(From top photo)
I-Gilas Citation No.1499
Edward Marzan
Head Waiter
A hard working waiter of a Filipino food restaurant for 14 years now. Edward supported himself through college as a waiter. His remarkable sensitivity to his guests, anticipating guests' needs before they even ask, an optimistic attitude, plus a heart for service, caused him to be promoted as head waiter.

I-Gilas Citation No. 1036
Eugene dela Cruz
Food Server
Eugene was cited for excellent customer service. Maasikaso, always checking to see if his guests were happy with their order and the quality of service given to them.

I-Gilas Citation No. 1077
Paul James Ragde
Flight Attendant
Paul was cited for remembering to fulfill passenger requests despite heavy workload. He remembered without having to be reminded about his earlier promise.

Paying Tribute to the Everyday Hero

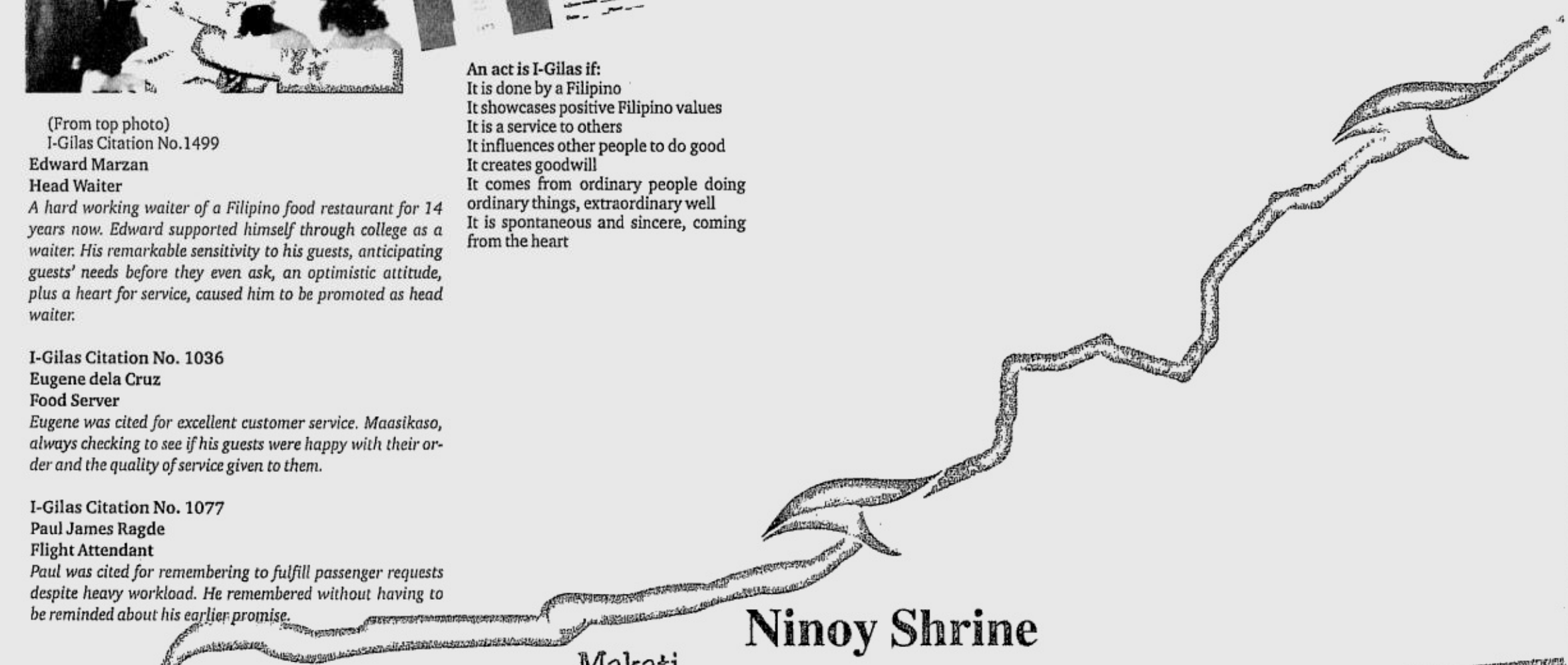
KEY to the success of the Galing Pilipino Movement (GPM) is a corps of active and dedicated volunteers whose mission is to "spot" individuals from any level of society who manifest the GALING PILIPINO spirit in their work. These volunteers will be known as "I-Gilas" which literally means "*ilabas and gilas*." "Gilas" denotes a spirit of excellence. The term "I-Gilas" was inspirationally derived from the Philippine Eagle whose visual acuity and far-reaching vision symbolizes strength and tenacity. A fitting symbol suggestive of the role every volunteer will play in the Galing Pilipino Movement— purposive determination to bring out and affirm what is good and excellent about being Pilipino.

People spotted will be recognized with a serial-numbered GPM sticker along with a written citation for the specific act done that reflects the GPM ideal. The sticker and citation will serve as both a reward and a reminder to the individual. These will encourage the awardees to duplicate the specific act they were cited for in their day-to-day tasks. Repeated often enough, these acts will become habitual and eventually integral to their way of life.

The volunteer I-Gilas who made the citation will then submit the duplicate copy of the written citation to GPM. A team of volunteers will encode the data reported. Research giant AC Nielsen together with the Asia Pacific Center for Research and the Punlad Research House of Dr. Landa Jocano will cluster and analyze the data submitted in order to arrive at standards of excellence in specific fields of endeavor. This instant process of recognition and data collection will be one of GPM's major thrusts in propagating the vision and ideals of the movement in order to provide people with role models they can emulate.

Individuals who sign up, as GPM I-Gilas volunteers, must attend an orientation-training session prior to official commissioning.

An act is I-Gilas if:
It is done by a Filipino
It showcases positive Filipino values
It is a service to others
It influences other people to do good
It creates goodwill
It comes from ordinary people doing ordinary things, extraordinary well
It is spontaneous and sincere, coming from the heart



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Bayan na Magiting

Hero

In Celebration of National Heroes' Day

raises the banner of heroism as
a commendable sense of nation-
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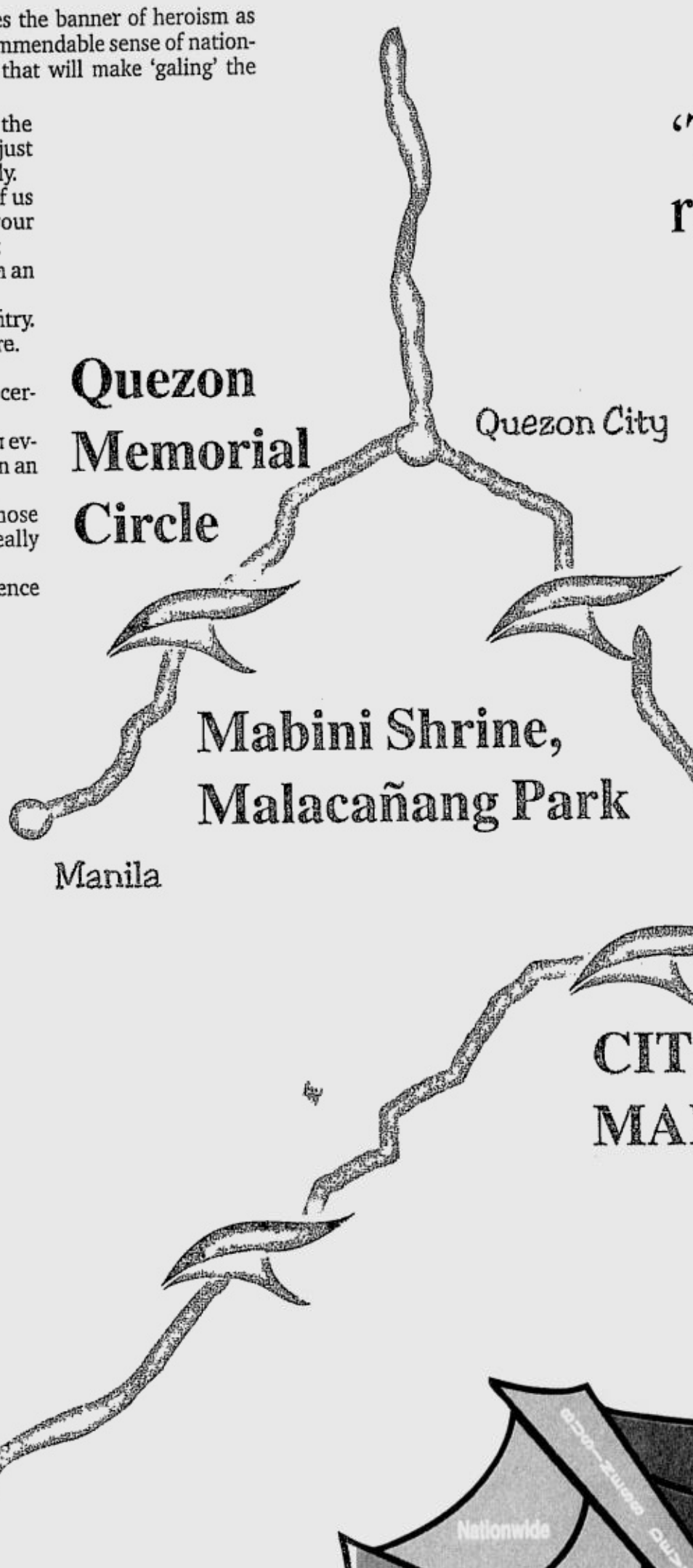


'The vision of our future must be rooted in a correct image of the past'

- Dr. F. Landa Jocano

Program of Activities

TRAIL OF HEROES: TRACING OUR HEROIC HERITAGE

To mark this year's celebration, GPM pays tribute to our heroes by visiting places where they are honored for their bravery and moral courage. The Curators and guest Historian-lecturers in the following sites will handle simultaneous focal discussions on the heroes and their historical significance.

Mabini Shrine, Malacañang Park - The Political Birth of a Nation by Dulce Baybay, Historian, Political Birth of the Filipino Nation - The Revolutionary period is marked by the struggle for independence and nationhood. Filipinos tried to preserve their own identity.

Quezon Memorial Circle - Leadership, Politics and Honor by Ricardo Jose, Dean, U.P. History Department, Leadership - This era marks the emergence of the Filipino as a leader who takes it upon himself to lead and inspire his people to achieve the fullness of a democratic nation.

Ninoy Shrine, Makati - Moral Courage by Jarius Bondoc, Columnist, Philippine Star, Moral Courage - This era-under the chains of dictatorship-marks the maturity of the Filipino who grows from being a citizen into a heroic martyr.

People's Monument, Edsa - The Philippines: A Nation of Heroes by Jaime Veneracion, Professor, U.P. History Department, A Nation of Heroes - Filipinos wake up as a united people, raise their arms as a nation and regain their freedom as one citizenry committed to freedom and justice

MOTORCADE TO MARIKINA

PANANGHALIAN SA DALAMPASIGAN NG ILOG NG MARIKINA

TRAIL OF EVERYDAY HEROES: A TOUR OF MARIKINA

Tour of the city that has undergone a social transformation inside and outside. Present day heroism showcased in the monuments along Bayan-Bayanan Avenue. Experience first-hand how a citizenry was motivated by good governance to develop 'pride of place'.

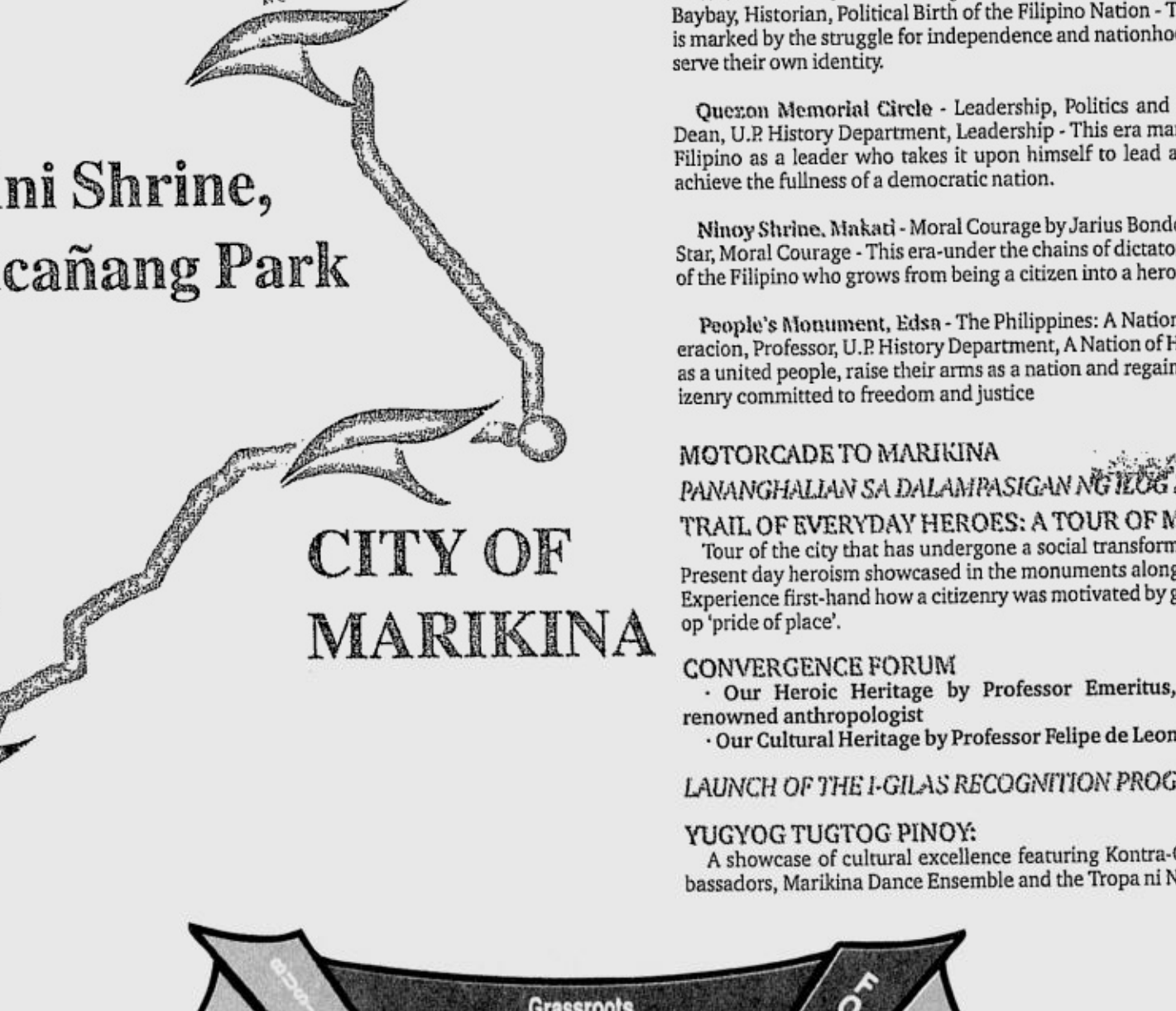
CONVERGENCE FORUM

- **Our Heroic Heritage by Professor Emeritus, Dr. F. Landa Jocano, renowned anthropologist**
- **Our Cultural Heritage by Professor Felipe de Leon Jr.**

LAUNCH OF THE I-GILAS RECOGNITION PROGRAM

YUGYOG TUGTOG PINOY:

A showcase of cultural excellence featuring Kontra-Gapi, the UP Singing Ambassadors, Marikina Dance Ensemble and the Tropa ni Nonoy Band.



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on Page L11

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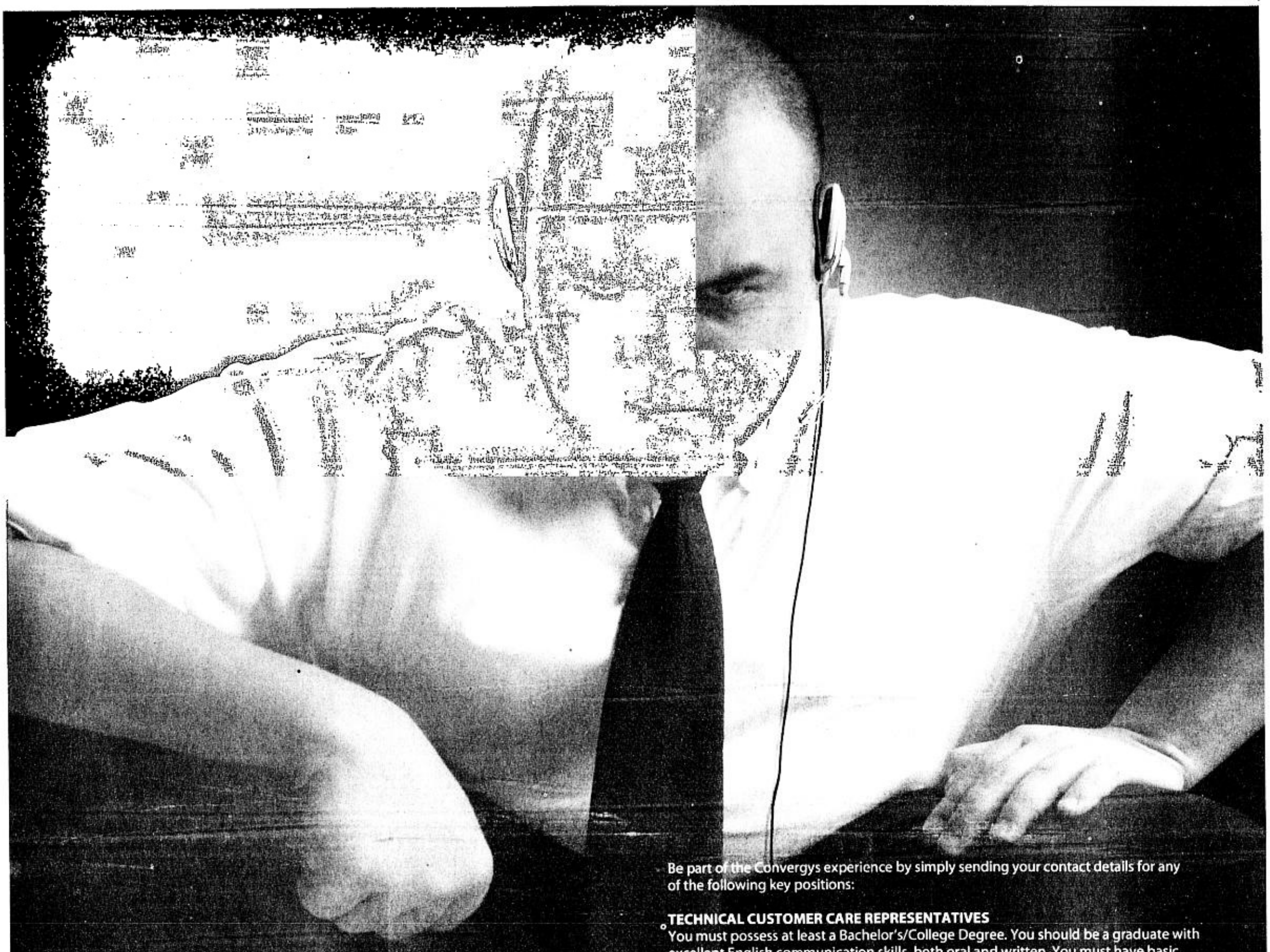

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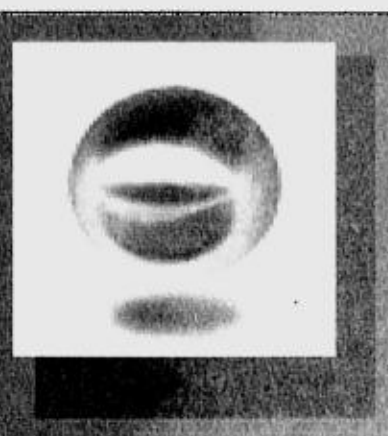


BE ONE OF US!!! COME AND JOIN ambergris solutions *JOB FAIR* !!!

At AMBERGRIS SOLUTIONS people make the difference. Attractive compensation, competitive benefits, daily treats, team building activities and exceptional career growth will be given to qualified applicants. Our employees partners are committed to transforming the world of customer care. Come join the revolution!!! NOW!!!

Inbound Sales Associates

Take inbound sales calls and respond to queries regarding various computer related products. Close the deal and make some money! Background in IT, software and computer equipment is a big plus. Willing to work shifts, including graveyard.

Customer Interaction Associates

The average Ambergris CIA is either a fresh graduate from a top Philippine university or a recent graduate with 1-2 years of work experience. Fluent in English (both oral and written communication). Proficient in computer applications. Willing to work in shifts including graveyard.

Team Captains

You will be the first line supervisor of a team of CIAs. Candidate must possess a minimum of 1 year supervisory experience from any industry; call center experience is a big plus. Willing to work shifts. B.S. Psych

Operations Managers

Assistant Operations Manager

Candidate must have 2-3 years experience in managing an operation department.
You will be responsible for managing the customer service and call center departments involving activities which contribute to the acquisition, satisfaction and retention of customer.

Recruitment Officer

Proven experience with executive search firm and/or human resource

HR Associate

Set up interviews of quality candidates, must be English speaking. 1 year HR experience required.

Training Manager for Organizational Development

Develop, facilitate and deliver high caliber training classes to all levels of employees within the company. You must have 1 year experience in Customer and/or Organizational Development/ Human Resource.

Quality Assurance Manager

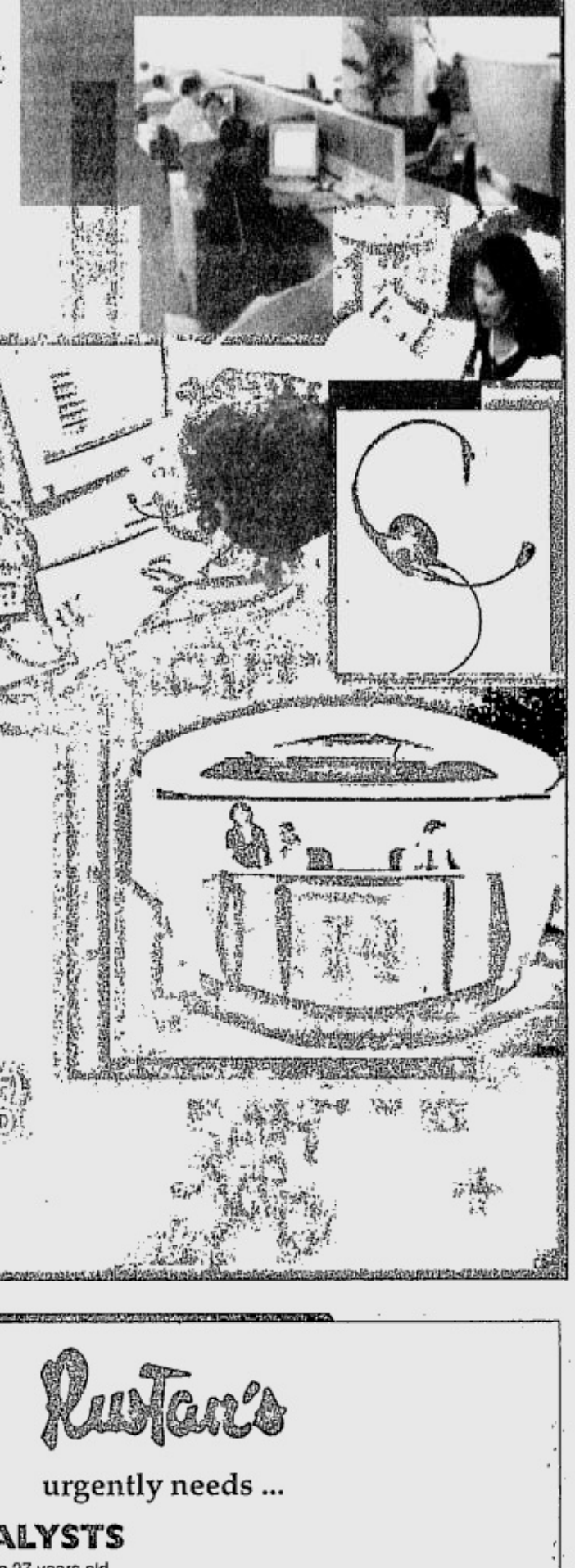
Partner with managers, trainers, and supervisors to advise of specific training needed based on group and individual quality monitoring trends. Assist in coaching and developing associates using the principles of trend analysis and behavioral science, driving toward continuous improvement.

Trainer for Accent Neutralization

Conduct and facilitate training sessions focusing on accent neutralization. Must have previous experience. Familiarity with American speech & culture an advantage.

Come to our JOB FAIR on SEPTEMBER 25, 2003 (THU)
from 10AM - 1PM and BE IMMEDIATELY INTERVIEWED!

ambergris solutions



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eReps™

PeopleSupport's customer service representatives who provide customer service via email, chat and phone on a 24x7 basis.
General Qualifications Four-year college degree. Strong customer service orientation. Excellent English communication skills and good typing skills. Internet savvy. Willing to work shifts

Travel eReps™
2+ years' experience in airline or hotel/car rental reservations. Tourism / HRM graduate, with experience in the hospitality industry, preferably in reservations.

Sales eReps™
College graduates with experience or keen interest in sales, closing orders and / or telemarketing.

General eReps™
College graduates with strong customer service orientation.

Mandarin eReps™
College graduates with strong customer service orientation. Must speak and understand Mandarin. Written and reading ability in Mandarin is highly preferred.

IMMEDIATE NEED for
Technical eReps™
College graduates from Computer Science / IT courses
(or any related degree / background).
Experience or keen interest in technology, HW / SW troubleshooting.

Send your resumes to: manilahr@peoplesupport.com
For more information, call: (02) 755-26hr

Founded in the USA in 1998, **PeopleSupport** is a leading international call center that provides **superior customer service** via phone, email and chat, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. *Today, in less than five years, our global network is composed of a corporate headquarters in Los Angeles, the Asia Pacific Headquarters in Manila, and soon an Operations Center in Cebu!*

We focus on creating a supportive environment for our eReps™ so we can retain the best talent. We maintain a positive culture through motivation and retention programs, offer a dynamic and state-of-the-art work environment, casual dress code, professional development and training, and a competitive compensation and benefits package.

www.peoplesupport.com

Rustan's

urgently needs ...

AUDIT ANALYSTS
- Female, between 21 to 27 years old
- BS-Industrial Engr. or Accounting grad.
- Preferably CPA and/or with related job experience in external or internal audit, accounting, methods systems analysts and designs
- With IT/Audit background
- Reliable, hardworking, trustworthy, with good moral character

FINANCIAL ANALYSTS
- Between 21 to 28 years old
- BS-Industrial Engr. or Accounting Graduate
- Proficient in oral and written communication with analytical ability
- Preferably with related work experience
- Willing to work beyond regular office hours.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
- Female, between 22 to 28 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year business course
- Knowledge in several secretarial services
- Must have excellent and oral communication skills
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality.

MAKE-UP ARTISTS
- Female, Gay, between 18 to 28 years old
- At least 2nd yr. College completed
- 5'2 in height with PLEASING PERSONALITY and CLEAR COMPLEXION
- Preferably with Skin Care or Cosmetology background
- Good in oral communication skills

BEAUTY THERAPISTS
- Female, between 20 to 28 years old
- Graduate of Physical Therapy or Nursing
- At least 5'2 in height with PLEASING PERSONALITY and CLEAR COMPLEXION
- Preferably with Skin Care or Cosmetology background
- Good in oral communication skills

BEAUTY CONSULTANTS
- Female, between 18 to 28 years old
- At least 2nd yr. College completed
- 5'2 in height with PLEASING PERSONALITY and CLEAR COMPLEXION
- Preferably with experience in Skin Care and Cosmetology background
- Good in oral communication skills

Those who meet the qualifications mentioned may apply personally to:

RUSTAN COMMERCIAL CORPORATION
Human Resource & Organization Development Division
El Mercasol Bldg., EDSA, Mandaluyong City
(near Ortigas Fly-over, beside Barrio Fiesta)

A Digital Post-Production Studio
Involved in Film/Broadcast Graphics is currently in need of:

Technical Support Associate
ECE, COE or Computer Science graduate
Knowledgeable in computer hardware and software troubleshooting
Familiar with LAN. Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

Computer Graphics Artists
Must be knowledgeable in the following software programs:
Adobe Products (Photoshop, Illustrator, After Effects), Corel and others.
Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

Interested parties may send their comprehensive resumés to:
Monomer Bldg. Jose Cruz St., Barrio Ugong, Pasig City
with contact numbers 671-7385 and 671-0998. Please look for Thea Galvez.

WANTED:
SECURITY OFFICERS/ GUARDS & LADY GUARDS
IMMEDIATE POSTING-METRO MANILA
- At least College Level
- With minimum height of 5'7" (Male) / 5'2" (Female)
- With complete SAGSD requirements

Apply at:
CENA SECURITY & GENERAL SERVICES, INC.
G/F 915 Timbol Bldg. Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City
Tel No. 421-9497 (DL-ADMIN)

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MCI

Wanted:
Senior Site Technician
LAN Administrator
Technical Specialist
Accounting Manager

We're looking to expand our most valuable technology—our staff.

MCI, one of the world's largest communications companies offers Internet, data and voice services to over 22 million customers in 65 countries. So how did we get this way? We built our company around our most advanced technology—our staff, the most forward thinking work force in the business today. With an extensive range of IP, hosting, VPN and data comms, it's important to have the right people take us into the new e-conomy. Now we are looking for a few more to join us.

SENIOR SITE TECHNICIAN
Provides site expertise in planning & implementing new hardware and software installations, including administration and troubleshooting of networks, switches, and security systems. Must be fully-operational in switching, and signaling technologies, transmission media networks, channel banks, and WAN / LAN and ISN architecture and hardware.

LAN ADMINISTRATOR
Responsible for the maintenance and installation of all LAN workstations and infrastructure; ensuring all security access levels are in accordance with Worldcom's Security Procedures (MSB). Must be a Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP), with at least two (2) years related work experience. Must be fully-operational in servers, operating systems, Internet Web Ticketing System, and LAN infrastructure with Switches and Wireless Components.

TECHNICAL SPECIALIST
Installs, maintains, and monitors telecom and networking equipment within the operations center. Performs daily corrective maintenance of current center floor issues; reporting floor status to other center units. Must be fully-operational in trouble restoration on transmission equipment, and cross-connections for voice and data circuits within the WAN / LAN Networks.

ACCOUNTING MANAGER
Responsible for the administration and implementation of all Accounting policies and procedures pertaining to financial accounts and control, payroll management, budget monitoring, fund management, and cash flow. With five (5) years related work experience. Must be fully-operational in performing financial analysis and reporting, cash flow statements, and taxation / payroll procedures, in addition to Accounting Systems Implementation. Experience in using Microsoft Business Solutions Software is an advantage.

ePERFORMAX CONTACT CENTERS

Wanted:
Operations Manager
Training & Quality Assurance Manager
Quality Assurance Specialist
HR Manager

If you're looking to build your career — Then join our world.

ePERFORMAX, a multinational, award-winning contact center servicing both local and U.S. clients, is now offering exciting career. Through the ePERFORMAX Training Center, we provide comprehensive courses to build your skills so you can excel in one of our many professional positions. We're proud to be a member of the Transnational Diversified Group (TDG), a family of multinational companies with operations here in the Philippines for over 27 years. With TDG and ePERFORMAX, you're not just getting a job, you're building a career.

We are currently hiring for a wide range of positions for our newest client MCI.

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Responsible for the performance of assigned call handling operations teams, monitoring, coaching, and development of operator's performance. With three (3) years related work experience preferably in a large scale call center. Experienced in annual performance appraisals, data analysis, and ACDs. Must be open to schedule flexibility, being on call 24x7, including working overtime as needed.

TRAINING & QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER
Responsible for organizing, coordinating, and overseeing all aspects of training and quality assurance. With three (3) years related work experience preferably in a large scale call center. Experienced in quality assurance functions such as defining problems, collecting data, establishing facts, drawing valid conclusions, and interpreting an extensive variety of technical instructions.

QUALITY ASSURANCE SPECIALIST
Responsible for monitoring including providing reports to management and verbal feedback to operators. With six (6) months related work experience in operating a monitoring system capabilities while analyzing and scoring the details of monitored calls.

HR MANAGER
Responsible for planning and implementation of all HR policies and procedures pertaining to rewards and remuneration, labor relations, organizational development, and employee welfare and benefits. With five (5) years related work experience in labor laws, benefits administration, HR systems, and employee development. Experience in using Microsoft Business Solutions Software is an advantage.

For a position with MCI or ePERFORMAX, call us at
891-4471
or send your resume via e-mail to yourcareer@eperformax.com

All applicants must have a college degree, able to speak English fluently, and have the desire to learn.

ePERFORMAX CONTACT CENTERS CORP.
2nd Floor BPI Buendia Center, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, Philippines
url: www.eperformax.com

A local pharmaceutical company is in need of:

MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVES

(For Immediate Hiring)

- Female, not more than 28 years old
- Graduate of a 4-year course pref. Pharmacy, Nursing, PT or any related course
- Honest, hardworking, sales exp. an advantage
- Sales experience an advantage
- Willing to be assigned to any part of Luzon

Submit resumé with picture, Transcript of Records, NBI or Police Clearance to:

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The Country's Top Insurance Company in partnership with the Country's Largest Financial Conglomerate is looking for dynamic self-starters aiming to build a professional career to fill key positions for its Branch Office.

- If you are willing to undergo training at company's expense;
- Graduate of any 4-year course;
- With excellent communication skills and pleasing personality;
- Focused and results-oriented;
- Willing to start immediately.

Be a Part of the Team that Matters!
Submit your resume',transcript of records and 2x2 photo.
Come in proper business attire

Unit 802 8/F Alabang Business Tower,
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An above average compensation awaits qualified applicants. Including:
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A SINGAPORE-AMERICAN SCHOOL

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- **READING SPECIALISTS (Part Time/Saturdays Only)**
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- **CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT SPECIALISTS**
- **ENGLISH GRAMMAR TEACHERS TO HANDLE BOTH STUDENTS & ADULTS**
- **EXPERIENCED/LICENSED TEACHERS:**
  - **ENGLISH • MATH • FOREIGN LANGUAGE**
  - **SCIENCE • ECONOMICS • I T • ESL**

Submit complete resume w/ 2x2 picture to:
Ms. MONA RIZELLE D. AUSTRIA
Pasig Blvd. cor. Rosemarie Lane Pasig City

AIG Business Processing Services, Inc.

AIG-BPSI, a business process outsourcing (BPO) company, strategically located at the Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, serving the needs of AIG-American General Life Insurance Companies and the newest member of the Philam Group, invites you to be part of its pioneering and fast-growing operations. Successful candidates will undergo intensive training and can look forward to a financially rewarding and enriching career.

TEAM LEADERS (Call Center)

Job Requirements:
- Graduates of any college course; advance degree is a plus
- Minimum of two years work experience in supervising people preferably in Insurance or Financial Service Institutions.
- Ability to prepare, analyze, and effectively use different MIS reports; Proficient in Microsoft Software applications
- Strong interpersonal/communication skills; can work effectively across language and cultural barriers
- Progress in / completion of industry (i.e. FLMI, CLU) and previous life insurance and / or customer service designation are added advantages.
- With at least 1 year experience as a supervisor in a Call Center servicing international clients.

Position Responsibilities:
- Manage processes assigned to the team based on established standards; Measure employee performance: productivity, attendance, efficiency, quality, etc.
- Manage staff assignments based on business needs/capacity
- Coach team members on proper handling of transactions and support productivity improvement programs
- Manage a shift schedule from 9:00 PM – 5:30 AM

TEAM LEADERS (Business Processing)

Job Requirements:
- Graduates of any college course; advance degree is a plus
- Minimum of two years work experience in supervising people preferably in Insurance or Financial Service Institutions.
- Ability to prepare, analyze, and effectively use different MIS reports;
- Proficient in Microsoft Software applications
- Strong interpersonal/communication skills; can work effectively across language and cultural barriers
- Progress in / completion of industry (i.e. FLMI, CLU) and previous life insurance and / or customer service designation are added advantages.

Position Responsibilities:
- Manage processes assigned to the team based on established standards; Measure employee performance: productivity, attendance, efficiency, quality, etc.
- Manage staff assignments based on business needs/capacity
- Coach team members on proper handling of transactions and support productivity improvement programs
- Manage a shift schedule from 9:00 PM – 5:30 AM

Opportunity for U.S. training awaits selected staff

Since these are very immediate requirements, please submit your resume w/ 2x2 picture and TOR at the 8/F Philamlife Building, Acacia Ave., Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang or email us at BPSI-APPLICANTS@AIG.COM

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CSV Solutions, Inc., the fastest growing IT Resource and System Development Company, is currently in search for professionals with expertise in the following:

AS400 Programmers (RPG/ILE/CL/COBOL400)
At least 2 years experience in AS400 system development, with background in Telecommunication, Manufacturing, Accounting System, Logistics, Maintenance, Banking, etc.

Web Developers
Must have work experience in developing at least 3 e-commerce enablement projects, with background in various applications such as Coldfusion,ASP & MSSQL, PHP & MySQL CGI PERL, etc.

Java Developers
At least 2 years solid experience in Java specifically on J2SE platform J2EE preferably among technologies such as JSP, Servlet EJB, RMI, JDNI, JDBC, etc.

Visual Basic Programming/.NET
At least 2 years experience in developing systems using Visual Basic, .NET, with Crystal Reports, and/or Cognos, SQL, etc.

With background in Telecommunications, Manufacturing, Accounting System, Logistics, Maintenance, Banking, Payroll.

Oracle Programmers
Must be familiar with basic administration and have developed at least 3 applications to access ORACLE (preferably), SQL Server 2000, MySQL, Sybase, Informix databases using SQL statements.

Oracle 9IAS
Must have practical experience with application servers: ORACLE9IAS

Mainframe
Expert knowledge in COBOL, IMS, DB2, CICS. Minimum of 2 years related experience in programming and system analysis, including creation of detailed user specifications and detailed design specifications, etc.

Send your resume to Ms. Katherene Tamara
kctamara@csvsolutions.com or kctamara@edsamail.com.ph

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Unit G Matilde St. Makati City
Telephone No 896-9488
Fax No. 8969486/ 3729579
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Civil Engineers / Architects

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- Preferably with work experience in land development and mass housing projects.
- With good scholastic records, hardworking, result oriented, team player and good communication skills.

Marketing Officers / Team Leaders Sales Assistants

- 20 - 29 yrs. old, College graduates (Undergrads are welcome provided with at least 2 yrs. sales experience)
- Aggressive, goal oriented, team player, with good communication skills
- Have the desire to earn unlimited income

Accepted applicants can expect fixed monthly salary plus attractive commission and incentive package

Please submit your resume with 2 pcs. 2x2 pictures and photocopy of transcript of records
3/f State Centre Bldg. 333 Juan Luna St. Binondo, Manila
Tels. 243-0731 to 45 loc loc 226 / hrd@stateland-inc.com.ph

A Subsidiary of a ***Japanese Company***

is in need of

PROJECT SITE ENGINEERS

Qualifications:
- Hardworking and responsible, Male, 22-35 years old
- **ENGINEERING** course graduate, preferably Civil or Mechanical Engineering
- Computer literate and good English proficiency
- Willingness to be assigned at Project Sites
- Job experience in Construction or installation of grouts and other adhesives is an advantage, but not necessary.

Qualified applicants please send in your detailed resumé and certified true copy of transcript of records with passport size picture to:

THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
Unit I #753 Quirino Hi-way, San Bartolome
Novaliches, Quezon City Philippines
Tel. No. (02) 417-6940 Tel/Fax No.: (02) 419-4918

E-mail: atcpphils@pacific.net.ph

Isis International-Manila is implementing its media awareness and literacy campaign project as part of its strategic plans for the period 2004-2006. In line with this, we are searching for a

Media, Information and Communication Campaigns Associate

who will initiate and organise the actual campaigns.

The successful candidate will (1) be responsible for the production of the electronic and print editions of the Isis newsletter *wel*; (2) initiate and organise media literacy and other media campaigns; and (3) contribute to and participate in Isis' advocacy and capacity-building programmes for women in media and information and communication work.

Profile: An individual with experience and commitment to women's and other social justice issues who is highly motivated, hard working, a self-starter, and an excellent networker.

Minimum Requirements:
- Has excellent writing and verbal communication skills
- Has at least 3 years of work experience in media production and information and communication work
- Has familiarity with women's issues and social justice concerns at the national, regional and international level. Actual experience in advocacy on women's issues and concerns is an advantage
- Has experience and/or exposure in new media productions (e.g. web-based media)
- Has familiarity with networking with media practitioners

The person we are looking for:
- Must have a Bachelor's degree in Journalism, Communication Arts, Mass Communication or equivalent combination of education and relevant experience
- Must be willing to travel locally and regionally and with a valid passport

Deadline for submission is **September 30, 2003.** Interested parties may send application letter, CV, writing samples, and three reference names with telephone numbers to:

The Executive Director
Isis International-Manila
#3 Marunong Street, Bgy. Central, Quezon City
Fax No.: (632) 924-1065
Email: admin@isiswomen.org

If shortlisted, applicants will be asked to submit other media production samples –e.g. videos, CDs, publications

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

BDC MARKETING CORP

PRODUCTION MANAGER (Valenzuela) continuous hiring>>>
M/F ,28-40 yrs.old.,Coll.Grad.w/at least 5 yrs extnsive exp.in handling Sewing, quality control, manufacturing & production management.
Can handle pressure, can work w/min.supervision & pro-active

STORE SUPERVISOR/COORDINATOR)
Female, 23-30 yrs.old.,5'2" w/ pleasing personality
Coll.Grad.at least 1yr.exp.in sales & retail operation
Can handle pressure, can work w/min.supervision & pro-active

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT/S)
M/F, 21yrs.old and above
At least 6mos.exp.in General Accounting & Auditing

FASHION DESIGNER/GRAPHIC ARTIST
M/F, 18-30yrs.old.,Fashion/Clothing/FineArts Grad.w/at least 6mos.exp.
RTW(Women & men's line).Knowledgeable in corel, adobe photoshop Illustrator, technical drawing, freehand is a must, bring portfolio

TAILOR/PATTERN MAKER) (Valenzuela,Tondo)
M/F, 21yrs.old and above
At least 1yr.exp.in pattern making (cotton,woven)
Knowledgeable in proto sampling.

PROMODITZER/STOCK CLERK
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MANUAL

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BRAND MANAGERS
- Male/Female, 25 to 35 years old or below
- Preferably graduates of Marketing and/or Communications from a reputable university
- With at least 3 years managerial experience in brand / product management functions. With proven track record in marketing, promotions, advertising, business development, and other related functions.

BRAND ASSISTANT/ PR ASSOCIATE
- Male/Female, 21 to 25 years old
- Preferably graduates of Marketing and/or Comm from a reputable university/college
- Highly organized, results-oriented and computer literate
- Pleasing personality, honest, hardworking, trustworthy and of good moral character
- Excellent written verbal communications & interpersonal skills

A lucrative compensation package awaits successful candidates. Interested applicants are invited to send in their resumes, transcript of records and a 2X2 picture to:

The Human Resources & Administration Manager
Mega Magazines and Publications, Inc.
8/F, Strata 100 Building, Emerald Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

A leading Company in Alternative and Integrative Medicine With affiliates in US and Germany is in need of

MEDICAL DOCTORS

Qualifications:
- Male
- Preferably 28-38 years old
- Willing to undergo training in diff. Modalities of treatment in alternative medicine (Homeopathy, Chelation etc.)
- Must have experience in hospital set-up (2-4 years)

Send or fax your Resumé with 2 x 2 picture, TOR, PRC License & Certificate, NBI clearance

Luzon Applicants
Suite 301 Marbella 1 Condo. 2223 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Fax# 834-27-66.

Visayas-Mindanao Applicants
0356 Don Mariano Cui St., Capitol Site, Cebu City
Fax# (032) 253-3748.

Only qualified applicants will be entertained.

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THE SOUTH EAST ASIAN COMMITTEE FOR ADVOCACY (SEACA), a regional network which focuses on building capabilities of South East Asian civil society groups for advocacy, is in **urgent need** of a **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER** for its secretariat office in Quezon City

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES
- Primarily responsible for bookkeeping SEACA's accounts
- Providing accurate and timely financial reports
- Ensures accountability to internal and external partners
- Provides over-all administrative and personnel support to the organization

QUALIFICATIONS
- College or university degree
- At least five years of work experience in financial management and Administration preferably with an NGO
- Internal and external audit skills and experience
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Mature, flexible and with skills in human relations
- A Certified Public Accountant (CPA) (desirable)

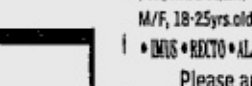
Interested candidates, please send your application letter with curriculum vitae and 3 references not later than September 10, 2003 to:

The Programme Coordinator
South East Asian Committee for Advocacy
Unit 208, Margarita Bldg.
No. 28 Matalino Street, Central District, Quezon City
Or e-mail to: info@seaca.net

SEACA offer a salary range of Php20,000.00 - Php28,000.00/ month (depending on qualifications) and benefits.

The best companies need the best people.

Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.



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Let the SMART Job Finder do the hard work for you. Hassle-free service that allows you to get regular updates on the jobs you want here and around the world. Easier, smarter and more personalized service from SMART.

FOR INTERNATIONAL JOB OPENINGS

POEA 276

Text POEA to 276

To get the following services:	Text message and send to 276:
To get list of commands	POEA
To search for job opportunities	POEA <preferred job>, <preferred country>
To subscribe to regular job updates	POEA JOBALERT <name>, <job type>, <country>
To get info on recruitment agency	POEA AGENCYINFO <agency name>
To send message/question to POEA	POEA INFO <message>
To get help with the service	POEA HELP <command>

FOR LOCAL JOB OPENINGS

JOBS 2456

Text JOBS to 2456

To get the following services:	Text message and send to 2456:
To get a list of available job categories	JOBS CATEGORY
To find job openings based on a category	JOBS FIND <category>
To search for new company openings	JOBS NEW
To receive job alerts/matches	JOBS REG
To subscribe to job tips	JOBS TIPS ON
To get help with the service	HELP JOBS <command>

SMART Simply Amazing! JOB FINDER

Each text message costs P2.50. For questions, comments, or concerns, you may text a message to *888 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation) or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

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HOMODIALYSIS NURSES

- Male/Female, not more than 28 years old
- Must be a Registered Nurse (RN)
- With pleasing personality and above average communication skills
- Experience in DIALYSIS is an advantage but not a must
- Must be hardworking and possesses good interpersonal skills
- Possibly residents of Quezon City, Muntinlupa City, Las Piñas City, Cavite City, Naic Cavite, Sta. Cruz Laguna, Baliwag Bulacan, Olongapo, Baguio City or nearby city, towns or municipalities.

Qualified and interested applicants are requested to submit or mail their comprehensive resumé with recent ID photo on or before 15 September 2003 to:

PHILIPPINE RENAL CARE

PHILIPPINE RENAL CARE, INC.
3rd Flr. JMT Corporate Center, ADB Ave.
Ortigas Complex, Pasig City

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UNIT 5-3 NET ONE CENTER BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY TAGUIG M.M
TEL. NO 815-4932 FAX. NO 815-4936

IT CROSSINGS - MANILA, INC., is an information technology outsourcing firm formed to cater to the Life and Health insurance industry. This new firm will provide insurance companies with affordable IT services from it's offices in Net One Center, Bonifacio Global City. IT Crossings is a subsidiary of US based LIDP Consulting Services Incorporated, the premier provider of software solutions to the Life and Health insurance industry. For 25 years LIDP has provided enterprise software and consulting services to many of the top insurance companies worldwide. IT Crossings will enable LIDP to continue to provide superior service to it's clients from it's Taguig offices. These services include conversion, interface, enhancement and testing support covering all areas of insurance operations.

We are currently in need of a

PROGRAMMER / ANALYST

Requirements:
- University Graduate with a bachelors degree in Computer Science, Information Technology or it's equivalent.
- Preferably with 1-2 years experience with programming
- Proficiency in Cobol, Java, Perl or CICS is preferred.
- Life Insurance background is preferred but not required
- Must be resourceful, flexible, fast learner and possess good communication skills.

Competitive remuneration packages awaits qualified candidates. Kindly forward your resume to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Unit 5-3 Net One Center
Bonifacio Global City
Taguig, Metro Manila
Fax No. 815-4936
E-mail: resume@itcrossings.com

viper technologies inc.

WE WANT YOU!!!

Are you an Account Executive?

POSITION SUMMARY
- Responsible for sales leads and generation
- Develops accounts relationships thru initial presentation, liaisons, acceptance of project and continuing accounts management.
- Occasional attendance at regional and national sales meetings and trade shows which may include weekend travel
- Travel as necessary to cover all locations for named accounts
- Management of expenses within budget

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Willing to work in a fun yet challenging work environment.
- Strong presentation skills, especially ability to engage managerial-level representatives of accounts.
- Ability to motivate and direct efforts of others.
- Successful sales track record with verifiable earnings.
- Familiarity with advertising industry and/or work experience with Internet related software or systems is a plus.
- References required.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS.
- Part of the the strategic planning team and implementor of plans to generate re ue and revenue growth.
- Proactively work with peers and partners in attaining objectives.
- Identify projects and opportunities for VTI solutions and coordinate sales resources needed.
- Identify and build strategic partner relationships.
- Build relati and value proposition at the managerial level of target accounts.
- Position ne interactive agency standard at targeted accounts.

VIPER TECHNOLOGIES INC. Unit 1003 Antel Global Corporate Center Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Metro Manila
Email: jobs@vipertechonline.com

Roche

Medical Marketing Manager

(Application Code: MMM)

Who we are

As an innovation-driven global healthcare leader focused on pharmaceuticals and diagnostics, Roche aims to make a real difference in people's lives by providing products and services for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease.

The Position

Reporting to the Medical Director, the main responsibility includes providing disease-therapeutic-marketing expertise to the business teams, contributing to the development of marketing plans, internal & external medical marketing training/conferences, and education information campaigns. A competitive salary and benefits package including a generous car plan are among the perks of the position.

Who you are

To qualify, you must hold a medical specialty in Internal Medicine, plus MS Biochemistry/Molecular Biology, and MBA training. You must have at least1 year experience in medical marketing planning, or in the functions described above. Exposure in medical/health related conferences as well as a teaching background are required. Leadership, flexibility, outstanding communication and interpersonal skills, proficiency in MS Office programs are among the requirements for the job. Systematic and well organized in planning and implementation, you must be a strategic thinker and good team player.

How to Apply

Due to the urgency of this requirement, please submit your resumé with recent passport size picture and contact telephone number no later than **Friday, 5 September 2003** to:

The Human Resources Department - Application Code MMM
Roche (Philippines) Inc.
2252 Don Chino Roces Avenue, 1231 Makati City.

ADB

Fighting Poverty in Asia and the Pacific

Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

Compliance Coordination Officer

Reporting Arrangements

The position reports to the Associate Secretary, Compliance Review Panel, Office of the Compliance Review Panel (OCRP).

The position is responsible for providing administrative, analytical and technical support in the implementation of the new ADB Accountability Mechanism for ADB-assisted projects. Information on the new ADB Accountability Mechanism, including the OCRP, is available on the ADB homepage at http://www.adb.org.

Description of Responsibilities

- Conducting preliminary review of compliance requests received by ensuring that these are within the scope of the compliance review and do not fall under any of the exclusions stated in the Board paper on the establishment of a new ADB accountability mechanism;
- Facilitating effective conduct of review of compliance requests by checking eligibility requirements and ensuring completeness of the contents of compliance requests;
- Ensuring that the procedural steps and proposed time frames for the compliance review process are observed and monitored;
- Ensuring the preparation of comprehensive reports on compliance review, including its disposition and resolution, monitoring and reporting on the status of these compliance reviews;
- Ensuring availability, accuracy and efficient retrieval of information needed for the review, analysis and monitoring of compliance requests received and monitoring of implementation of decisions made by the Board of Directors following a compliance review;
- Ensuring the follow-up on monitoring implementation of decisions made by the Board of Directors following a compliance review, including reports on postcompliance review monitoring and its outcomes;
- Maintaining and updating a database of independent technical experts to assist CRP in its work.
- Assisting in selection and engagement of consultants required to assist the CRP in carrying out its work, including follow-up on contract variations and reporting requirements;
- Maintaining web site and ensuring that documents and events are updated regularly, including maintenance of the registry of requests;
- Collating, preparing and finalizing materials for annual reports and other publications, including arranging their publication;
- Collecting information in suitable form for publication of brochures and information material relating to the compliance review phase for public dissemination and conducting public outreach for the ADB accountability mechanism, including coordination with the Office of the Special Project Facilitator (OSPF);
- Collating experiences from compliance reviews to be fed back into ADB operations, coordinating with the OSPF on their related experiences and integrating them;
- Participating in missions, if required, assisting in compliance review processes, and preparing back-to-office and other reports;
- Organizing seminars and related workshops for the OCRP and overall for the ADB accountability mechanism, including public outreach;
- Assisting in preparation and implementation of the budget for the ADB accountability mechanism, including OCRP, Board of Compliance Review Committee (BCRC), as well as coordinating with OSPF on its budget; and
- Performing any other duties as may be required for the administrative functioning of OCRP.

Selection Criteria

- Suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned at the required level;
- A university degree in Management, Liberal Arts, Economics or related fields;
- At least seven (7) years of relevant experience;
- Ability to take a body of data and information, and organize the component ideas into a logical sequence for written presentation;
- Knowledge and understanding of operations, project cycle, policies and procedures, and related matters of multilateral development and financing agencies;
- Good conceptual and analytical skills;
- Proven ability to identify issues and relevant facts;
- Good interpersonal skills with ability to liaise and work effectively with staff, Management and Board of Directors and with external clients, member governments, executing agencies and civil society;
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office applications (word processing, spreadsheet, and graphics); and
- Excellent command of written and spoken English.

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its national officers locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-N003-096(3)-OCRP** and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on http://www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: **CS-jobs@adb.org** by **12 September 2003**. External applicants who have responded to this position advertised earlier on the ADB web site need not resubmit their applications. Their applications will be considered together with applications received in response to this advertisement.

Human Resources Division,
Asian Development Bank
P.O. Box 789,0980 Manila Philippines

Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

ContactPoint

Do you have...?

- Previous telemarketing/call center experience
- Excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Dreams of career advancement

Are you...?

- A graduate of any four-year course (fresh graduates are welcome to apply)
- Highly customer-focused & a team player
- Strongly motivated and with high level of pressure tolerance
- Willing to work on holidays and shifting schedules
- Knowledgeable in Microsoft Office programs

Can you talk the talk?

Then join us, earn **BIG** and take your talents to the top with the leader in the industry providing local & international trades with superior & innovative business solutions.

We are an affiliate company of Pacific Internet Philippines & a call center servicing international & US-based clients.

Given the urgency of these requirements, we are inviting interested applicants to apply in person with a copy of their comprehensive resumés at:

31/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center,
Pasig City
Tuesday – Saturday
7am – 3pm

Or you can also send your online application at hr_cp@pacific.net.ph or call 910-5175 for inquiries.

SIEMENS
POWER OPERATIONS, INC.

To work as part of a competent team for **Siemens Power Operations, Inc.**, the operator of the Combined Cycle Power Plants - Santa Rita and San Lorenzo with a total of approximately 1500 MW located in Batangas City, the Company is inviting top calibre individuals to assume the position of:

LEAD AUDITOR

to audit and improve our

Integrated Management System

for

Power Plant Operations and Maintenance

- Age Preference: 35 – 45 years
- Position suitable for male or female
- Experienced in Auditing Management Systems to ISO 9001:2000, ISO 14001:1996 & OHSAS 18001:1999 Standards
- Minimum Educational Level: Engineering/Technical Degree (Post Graduate Studies such as MBA an advantage)
- Computer literate with good writing skills

We are looking for mature individuals who possess the ability to work independently as well as in a team and who are ready to accept the challenge of the job.
In order to cope with the tasks and be able to understand and implement procedures, applicants must be excellent in oral and written communication specifically in English.
We offer a competitive remuneration package including fringe benefits which will commensurate with qualification and experience.
Residents of Batangas will be preferred.

Interested parties are requested to forward a detailed resumé with contact telephone number and a recent passport sized picture to:

SIEMENS POWER OPERATIONS, INC.
P.O. Box 34720 Batangas City 4200

Get your career off the ground.
JOBMarket ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

A fast growing company engaged in the distribution of various medical supplies is looking for an

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

- College graduate (4-year course)
- Computer literate
- Proactive and willing to learn
- Responsible and having self-initiative
- Ability to work with others
- Thorough and detail-oriented

Please send resumé to:

The HR Officer
Box No. QC2003/75
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F St. Anthony's Building
891 Aurora Boulevard cor. Oxford St.
Cubao, Quezon City

YU ENG KAO
Electrical Supply and Hardware, Inc.
Importer • Distributor • Wholesaler

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

SALES ENGINEER

- **BSEE, BSME or BSECE graduate**
- **At least 2 years experience in sales of electrical products**
- **With knowledge of Variable Frequency Drives (VFD) Applications**
- **Hardworking, aggressive and has great ideas to boost VFD sales**

Apply personally at 2209 Jose Abad Santos Avenue near Batangas St., Tondo, Manila with bio-data sheets, 1" x 1" ID photos and transcript of records.

e-mail: yek@mindgate.net

INTELCOM

Intelcom Corp. wants **YOU** to become a part of our dynamic sales team in the Information Technology Industry. We are accepting applications for:

SALES EXECUTIVES
SALES ENGINEERS

- Male or Female, 23 to 35 years old
- A graduate of any 4-year course
- At least 2 years working experience in the same field
- Excellent interpersonal skills and customer service orientation
- Good oral and written communication skills
- IT background would be an advantage

Interested applicants may send their resumés with 2x2 pictures to:

Philcomspec Center
155 Road 3 Project 6, Quezon City

Or send thru e-mail:
mteg@info.com.ph

Are you up for the challenge?

Global Sources leads the field in creating and facilitating global trade between buyers and suppliers. We provide worldwide trading partners with the right information, at the right time, in the right format.

Our winning team of 1,800 people worldwide is skilled, tech-savvy and thrives in a dynamic, cross-cultural environment. If this sounds like you, then we are currently looking for:

Copy Editor

To be part of a team editing and writing news and product reports, and putting together the print, CD-ROM and online versions of a high-tech trade magazine. You should be a degree holder, preferably in English/Journalism/Communications. You must have excellent spoken and written English language skills and be computer literate with knowledge of the Internet. Candidates with exposure to international trade and 1-2 years editorial/writing experience in electronics/computer industry would be at an advantage.

A competitive remuneration package and a truly challenging, international and dynamic work environment awaits the right candidate. Interested parties should send their resume and contact details to any of the following:

Corporate Human Resources
online: career.globalsources.com
e-mail: gshr@globalsources.com
fax: (632) 892-4087
post: P.O. Box 4597, MCPO, Makati City

global sources
www.globalsources.com

DTSI

We are a leading systems integrator and provider of contact center solutions in the Philippines. As AVAYA's Top Business Partner of the year, we are empowered by solid strategic partnerships with Lucent Technologies, Witness Systems, Automated Logic and Sensormatic, apart from many other global technology. In line with this business expansion, we shall be needing high-caliber individuals who fill-in our following employment requirements:

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

- Certified Public Accountant, 28-35 years old;
- With at least five (5) years accounting/audit experience;
- Must be adept in the preparation of various account schedules and financial statements;
- Must be articulate and presentable;
- With working knowledge of project accounting & consolidation accounting;
- Familiar with international accounting standards
- Proficient in MS Office applications

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT MANAGER

- College graduate; preferably with MBA;
- With at least two (2) years experience in an ATM Center;
- Familiar with systems implementation, including testing, UAT and support;
- With good negotiation skills

MARKETING ASSISTANT MANAGER

- College graduate; preferably with MBA;
- With marketing experience in credit cards;
- Capable of developing strategies, building and developing outsourced teams;
- With good negotiation skills

PROCUREMENT OFFICER

- College graduate; preferably ECE;
- With at least five (5) years experience in purchasing, logistics and importation of technical or engineering equipment preferably gained from the ICT industry;
- With excellent communication and negotiation skills

TECHNICAL CONSULTANT

- Preferably Engineering graduate;
- With five (5) years experience in the payment industry;
- Knowledgeable in ISO8583 and in the payment cycle

CONVERGE SOLUTIONS SUPPORT ENGINEER

- BSECE, BSCoE or BSIT graduate;
- With at least two (2) years experience and certified by Cisco, 3Com or Avaya;
- With good communication skills

Our Other Requirements:

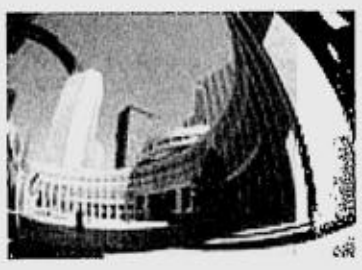
- Website Managers, Account Managers, Operations Head, Sales Engineers, Project Engineers, Software Engineers, Cadet Engineers, Customer Service Assistants, Staff Assistants/ Telemarketers

Applicants may send their resumés to:

Human Resources & Organization Development Group
39/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

or e-mail them to **chrod@dtsi.com.ph**

You may also contact us at **757-5888** *extension number* **8301** *for inquiries*



We are an international company with office in Central Makati and subsidiaries in the region. We primarily perform telemarketing, telesales and customer service solutions to a world-leading financial institution and related businesses. Our commitment is to acquire new, high-quality and preferred customers for our clients. We are looking for quality people who want to contribute in the rapid growth of the company. We offer a dynamic, fun and challenging environment where you will learn and grow with the company, receive comprehensive training, medical and other benefits, including annual performance bonus and travel incentives. If you are enthusiastic, highly motivated and possess the right discipline and attitude, we love to hear from you.

Send your resumé with photo at:
hrd@tapidata.com

A leading and Reputable Watch Company is in need of:

(1) CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

- At least 25-30 years old
- Communication Arts / A.B. English Graduate
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills both in oral and written
- Customer-oriented and self-motivated
- With pleasing personality and good moral character
- Minimum of one (1) year relevant experience
- Computer Literate

Qualified applicants must mail their resumés with detailed job description and 2" x 2" ID photo to:

P.O. BOX 1811
MAKATI CENTRAL POST OFFICE
MAKATI CITY

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ideas demand your attention.

Great ideas are always given everything they need at hp.
Join us, and you'll find a place where great ideas thrive.
Small wonder the best ones always seem to find themselves at hp.

SUPPLIES BUSINESS MANAGER

Location: Makati

Key Roles and Responsibilities:
- Responsible for the overall hp Philippines consumable / supplies business, inclusive of country shipment quota performance, category marketing management, channel sales management, end-user segment sales management, and program management functions.
- Responsible for planning, forecasting, market development, publicity, program conceptualization and implementation, fund management, and business infrastructure development for the supplies business.
- Conceptualize, implement, and manage quarterly demand-generation programs that specializes or cuts across defined customer segments: key commercial customers, broadbase SMB/SME customers, and consumer/home buyers.
- Manage channel/reseller sales covering entire distribution chain, including wholesalers, master resellers, commercial final tiers, and retail channels for the supplies category. The channel management function is inclusive of developing a cohesive nationwide distribution strategy, key accounts planning and development, conceptualization and implementation of various channel sales programs, monitoring of channel performance and progress, and development of alternative channels for future growth.
- Manage regional category programs in coordination with regional counterparts, including anti-counterfeit, environment, and customer loyalty programs, among others.
- Closely work with Consumer/Commercial teams to maximize opportunities for IPG and supplies business.

Ideal Candidate:
- At least 8 years work experience with at least 4 years experience in Product Marketing/Sales Management.
- Specifically, Product Management Background gained from solid FMCG product management experience; Channel Sales Background gained from distribution/trade marketing management experience; Commercial End User Sales experience; and Program/Project Management experience.
- MBA will be a plus but not required
- Mature, self-motivated, leader, team player, analytical

RETAIL ACCOUNTS REPRESENTATIVE

Location: Makati

Key Roles and Responsibilities:
- Responsible for the management of key retailers nationwide, inclusive of quota performance management, program management, retail category marketing management, consumer channel development and training.
- Assist in planning, forecasting, market development, publicity, program conceptualization and implementation, fund management, and business infrastructure development for the retail / consumer segment.
- Establish very good relationships with retailers at head office and branch levels
- Develop alternative channels for future growth
- Implement channel and demand-generation programs
- Manage assigned promoters and ensure strong retail visibility to assigned areas/malls

Ideal Candidate:
- At least 5 years' total work experience; at least 2 years' experience in channel management and/or retail sales and marketing
- Product Marketing/Sales Management
- Computer literate
- Willing to travel

RETAIL MARKETING SPECIALISTS

Location: Makati

Key Roles and Responsibilities:
- Conduct promotional activities at the retail level to educate consumers on hp's various products;
- Ensure retail stores' compliance with hp marketing and branding standards;
- Ensure the maintenance of appropriate inventory levels at various retail outlets; and
- Assist in conceptualizing and implementing retail marketing and research efforts.

Ideal Candidate:
- Marketing and sales orientation
- I.T. literate, or willing to learn technical product specifications
- Team player with a strong people orientation
- Self-motivated, self-starter

Put your ideas to work. Begin by applying at

hp
invent

All applications should be coursed through
The HP Recruitment Officer,
International Strategic Intelligence Solutions, Inc.
Suite 1104, 139 Corporate Center, Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
Fax 840 1031 irish.rago@istrategic.com

IMPLICARE INT'L MGT. RESOURCES INC.
URGENT HIRING!!!

FOR CAVITE:
Industrial Engr/HR Assistant/Accounting Clerk/Forklift/ Machine/Crane operator/Truck Driver/Truck Mechanic/ Electricians/Mechanical Engr/Welder/Foreman

FOR MANILA:
Accounting Clerk/HR Assistant/Industrial Engr/Merchandiser/ Marketing Assistant/Sales Representative/Drivers

FOR VALENZUELA & LAGUNA
FACTORY WORKERS

21-30 YRS. OLD/WITH OR WITHOUT EXPERIENCE
FRESH GRADUATES ARE WELCOME TO APPLY!!!

Apply at: 941 St. Francis Bldg., Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City in front of TIP School
Apply Monday - Friday 9AM - 4PM
Tel. 421-6808 Look for Ann / Bobby Garcia

A highly-reliable sign-making is in need of

GRAPHIC ARTIST (2)

for its 2003 expansion

- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old
- At least one year experience in large format printing
- Proficient in Adobe Photoshop 6 & Coreldraw 10

Apply personally w/ bio-data at:

176 Apo cor. Malaya Sts. (near Retiro), Quezon City
Look for Mr. Sonny Mesina Tel. No. 740-0675

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES

Finance and Administration Manager
Conservation International - Philippines

The Finance and Administration Manager will assist the Executive Director in further developing and maintaining CI-Philippines' financial management and administration activities. This position is at a senior level and offers an exciting opportunity to make an impact on Filipino biodiversity conservation activities by ensuring that sound management and administration support. The need for this position has arisen as a result of the recent growth in the CI-Philippines program. The Finance and Administration Manager will work closely with the Executive Director, the biodiversity corridor managers (Palawan and Sierra Madre) as well as the Philippines program staff and Finance Department staff in Washington, DC. The Finance and Administration Manager will be part of the CI-Philippines Senior Management Team responsible for organizational decision-making. The position will be based in the CI-Philippines offices in Manila and report directly to the Country Executive Director.

This position will be responsible for all aspects of budget development, management and accounting, including ensuring good budget and fiscal management and compliance with generally accepted accounting principles, internal accounting policies and donor requirements, and coordinating the annual audit. The Finance and Administation Manager, in coordination with the CI General Counsel's office in Washington, DC, assists with the development of local templates and ensures that contracting procedures meet CI requirements and coordinates with the DC General Counsel's Office on issues/projects with institution-wide implications. This position also will secure, manage and monitor asset procurement, management and use in accordance with CI policies, and manage CI's Manila site facilities including office space, equipment, utilities, telephones, housekeeping, storage and relationship with outside vendors. S/he will also will ensure systems are in palce for critical document security. The Finance and Administration Manager tracks, evaluates and monitores project related financial activities for timeliness and accuracy, with timely feedback to program managers and ensures overall smooth administration of day-to-day office management.

Requires an advanced degree in management or a similar discipline and at least 3-5 years' experience working for an international NGO or similar organization. Candidates must have supervisory experience, experience in project budget management as well as general financial management. Candidates must have superior English writing and speaking skills, demonstrated proficiency in Microsoft Office software programs (Excel, Word), and the ability and willingness to learn new computer software programs. A degree in Certified Public Accounting is preferred but not required. Essential personal characteristics include being well-organized and possessing analytical thinking skills, the abiltiy to pay attention to detail and also see the big picture, the ability to work well under pressure and deadlines, and a healthy sense of humor.

Interested applicants are requested to mail their comprehensive resumé to:

Executive Director
Conservation International - Philippines
5 South Lawin, Philam Homes
Quezon City
Or e-mail to: aespiritu@conservation.org.ph

The National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW), a National government agency under the Office of the President, is inviting applicants for two senior level positions.

Chief, Policy Analysis Division (PAD)

As Chief, she/he will exercise overall direction and supervision in conducting policy studies and policy advocacy activities, analyzing existing policies/laws as to gender responsiveness, and in developing tools and guidelines for gender mainstreaming in agencies related to promoting women's human rights particularly in eliminating violence against women.

Chief, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (MED)

As Division Chief, she/he is tasked to provide the overall direction and oversee the monitoring and evaluation of government actions to implement national laws and policies, including international instrument for women's advancement (UN CEDAW) and Beijing Platform for Action as well as in preparing reports on the status of its implementation in the country.

The candidates we are looking for should have the following qualifications:

- master's degree in any of the following: public administration, economics or other social or behavioral sciences such as development studies, women/gender studies, sociology and psychology;
- at least three years experience in development work, preferably related to gender and development; capacity building of institutions, policy monitoring and evaluation
- at least four years experience in managerial and supervisory positions;
- with professional Civil Service eligibility;
- with excellent oral and written communication skills;
- with networking skills;
- knowledgeable about the business of government, including systems, structures and processes
- knowledge of human rights advocacy/violence against women and economic sector interventions, an advantage.

Also, we prefer candidates who are team workers; have emotional maturity and have the ability to interact with people at different levels.

WE ARE A GOVERNMENT AGENCY WHICH PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND OFFERS A WORK ENVIRONMENT THAT IS FREE FROM UNFAIR PRACTICES, DISCRIMINATION OR ABUSE AND WHERE EMPLOYEES, REGARDLESS OF POSITION LEVEL, PARTICIPATE IN PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING.

As these are URGENT position vacancies, qualified applicants are requested to walk-in with their updated CV's and transcript of records, not later than **SEPTEMBER 5, 2003**, to –

Personnel Office
National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women
759 General Solano Street, San Miguel, Manila (In front of DBM)

You may also call the Personnel Office at 733-6611 or you can e-mail us at ird@ncrfw.gov.ph

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PLANTERSBANK
Planters Development Bank

The Bank for Small and Medium Enterprises with foreign shareholders: the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC), Asian Development Bank and Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO) needs the following positions:

ACOUNT OFFICER & ASSISTANT

Candidates should have at least 3 years experience as Account Officer or 1 year work experience as Account Assistant in a banking institution and be presently involved in management of quality loan portfolio. We are interested in persons possessing good market network, a proven track record in managing and meeting sales targets, and knowledge of program lending. Candidates should be customer-driven, computer literate and able to prepare project proposals, conduct financial evaluations and communicate ideas with any level of the organization. The ability to speak Chinese is an advantage.

BRANCH OFFICERS

An immediate requirement for Pampanga, Tarlac, Cebu and Davao. Candidates must have at least 3 years experience in branch banking operations in a managerial or supervisory level. He or she must be marketing and service-oriented and willing to accept provincial assignments. We are looking for someone who is computer literate and with excellent oral and written communications skills. The ability to speak Chinese is an advantage.

AUDIT OFFICER & EXAMINER

Candidates must be graduates of Accounting course; CPA or MBA an advantage. Candidates for Audit Officer should have audit experience, preferably as an officer in a bank or other financial institutions. He or she must be proficient in Microsoft applications and accounting software, willing to travel in provincial areas and do audit work. Candidates must also possess excellent oral and written communications skills. Background in information technology audit is highly needed.

Applicants are requested to apply ONLINE via our email:

jobs@plantersbank.com.ph

Or send their bio-data with 2 x 2 ID picture, diploma and transcript of records to:

THE RECRUITMENT
Human Resources Department
Planters Development Bank
314 Buendia Avenue, 1200 Makati City
www.plantersbank.com.ph

A WELL-KNOWN GARMENT COMPANY

Is in need of:

SALES DIRECTOR

- not more than 45 years old
- with at least 3-year experience in the job required
- graduate of Marketing or any related course
- computer literate
- with pleasing and dynamic personality
- has excellent oral and written communication skills
- a team builder, hardworking and of good moral character
- highly skilled in inventory management, wholesaling and retailing
- sensitive to both the customers' needs and business environment

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

- 25 to 30 years old
- with at least 3-year supervisory experience
- highly analytical, hardworking and trustworthy
- has extensive knowledge in manufacturing and retailing

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

- college graduate, preferably Fine Arts
- has thorough knowledge in Corel Draw, Adobe Photoshop, Freehand and AutoCad
- has both manual and computer-based artwork skill in visual design and layouting of display modules

Please send resumé with recent photo to:

MK-123
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave.,
Makati City

EXPERIENCED ANALYST/DEVELOPER REQUIRED

A subsidiary of a leading Hong Kong based technology company is looking for 2 highly experienced developers to join a dynamic and highly skilled team in the Philippines. If you are seeking a challenge and the opportunity to be part of an expanding International company then this is the position for you.

Previous applicants for this position should not re-apply

Qualifications:

- A graduate with a top class IT related Degree.
- MCP or MCSD would be considered an advantage

At least **2 years experience of Internet development** using the following or related technologies:

- ASP, ADO, VBScript, JavaScript, HTML CSS.
- MS SQL 2000 DB design and development.
- Visual Basic 6.

Preference will be given to candidates who have some of the skills listed below:

Experience of installing and configuring the following products:

- MS Windows 2000 server.
- MS ISA.
- Active Directory.
- MS Exchange 2000.

Development experience of:

- XML/XSLT.
- Visual Studio .Net.

Candidates should be dynamic and creative to match the exciting environment they will work in. Must also be self motivated, a team player with high standards of code development. **Closing date for applications is 12th September 2003.**

Qualified applicants should email their application letter and comprehensive resume with colour photograph to hr@yes.com.ph

Total Solutions Software Inc, YES Group
801 Metropolitan Terraces, cor Dao & Metropolitan Avenue, Makati City

www.yes.com.ph **www.yesyes.com**

IMMEDIATE HIRING
IN AYALA OFFICE

A multi-national company is looking for qualified men and women to occupy key positions in the company.

- If you are willing to undergo training at company's expense
- With excellent communication skills
- Background in HRD management is an advantage
- Willing to start immediately

APPLY AT:

PHIL. AXA LIFE CENTER
(Formerly PSBank Tower)
Suite 2104, 21st Floor, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave.,
(former Buendia cor. Tindalo St., Makati City
(beside Makati Central Post Office)

You will be qualified for:

- Above average starting income of P18,000.00
- Incentives and other benefits
- Continuous management training program
- A chance to join annual foreign trips with the top management group

SEE US FOR AN IMMEDIATE INTERVIEW!!

Come in proper business attire with 2 pcs. (2x2) ID pictures and your comprehensive resumé on Sept. 1 (Monday) to Sept. 2 (Tuesday) only from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Bring extra ID and the clipping of this Ad. Present another ID to gain entrance in the building.

We are looking

MARKETING ASSISTANT/RECEPTIONIST

Requirements:

- College graduate, single
- Can speak English fluently, computer literate & fast typist
- Has an outstanding communication and customer handling skills
- Smart, approachable and can work with less supervision
- Must have initiative and willing to work longer period of hours

Scope of work:

- ✓ Will be responsible in transferring calls and taking messages
- ✓ Assist in preparation of proposal and promotional materials
- ✓ Will be responsible in tracking inventories, sales and delivery
- ✓ Respond to sales inquiry conceptualize and develop marketing communication

Interested applicants must submit their complete curriculum vitaé with 2x2 picture not later than September 30, 2003 at:

H2O Plus Water Treatment Company
144 BSC Bldg., Rm. 205 Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City
Qualified applicants will be called for interview

VSO BAHAGINAN
Sharing skills · Changing lives

ENVIRONMENTALISTS NEEDED
FOR FISHERIES MANAGEMENT. (MOSQUITO) NETS PROVIDED.

Communities in the Tonle Sap basin in Cambodia depend on fishing for their livelihood. However, to help them continue their traditional way of life, it is essential that local people develop ways to manage their fisheries effectively.

To help people in areas like the Tonle Sap basin devise, plan and manage sustainable fisheries, VSO needs environmentalists with relevant qualifications and at least two years experience working in natural resources management. You will live and work as one of the local community, and will probably spend most of your time 'in the field'. You will be provided with a volunteer allowance, modest accommodation, travel, medical insurance, along with mosquito nets! We will also teach you Khmer, as well as how to ride a motorbike.

Selected applicants will be sent overseas by February 2004. Placement is for two years, with possible extension for another year.

Be a VSO Volunteer today if you're ready to change your environment!

Email your comprehensive resumé to:
philippines.registry@vsoint.org.

You may also call VSO Bahaginan now at (63-2) 3746451 for further inquiries.

Deadline for submission of applications is on **12 September 2003**.
Visit our website at **www.vso.org.uk**

PACIFIC EAST ASIA CARGO AIRLINES

NEEDS:

➢ CARGO REPRESENTATIVES

- Male or Female, not more than 25 years old
- Graduate of any four (4) year course
- Work experience is an advantage
- Proficient in Microsoft Excel & Word

➢ STATION LOADERS

- Male, not more than 25 years old
- At least 2nd year college
- Work experience is an advantage

Bring your resumé with recent 2x2 picture and school transcript of records on Sept. 2, 2003 between 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at PACIFIC EAST ASIA CARGO AIRLINES, INC. at 2nd floor International Cargo Terminal Bldg., NAIA Complex, Pasay City.

Attn: **Educators**
Want to teach at a new world-class facility, clean and conducive environment for learning and teaching with *faculty improvement* opportunities...

GLOBAL CITY INNOVATIVE COLLEGE
GLOBAL CITY, FORT BONIFACIO

is looking for Dynamic Instructors

1. **FULL TIME / PART TIME**
   Nursing- Clinical Instructors w/ MAN & Nursing Education experience w/ training in the AHSE curriculum.
   INSTRUCTORS with degrees in **Civil Engineering, Economics with DOST background, Philosophy, English, Computer Science, Education, Sociology, Statistics, Physical Education, Biochemistry** preferably with **MA/MS/MBA. Speech Instructors & Medical Doctors** are also welcome.
2. **LIBRARIANS, COUNSELORS, ACCOUNTANTS**
   Minimum requirement: preferably with an MA in respective field or its equivalent/ PRC license with at least 3 years administrative experience.
3. **DEAN - College of Business**

Send your Application, Resume, TOR and ID picture to
HR Dept - Global City Innovative College
3/f Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St., cor. 2nd Ave.,
Cresent Park West, Bonifacio Global City Taguig 1634
Tel 7575588; 8180945-46

NERA

NERA is a premier solutions of microwave radio transmission, satellite communication, IT networking infrastructure and high value added electronics and contract manufacturing. Locally, it started to address the market in 1995 and was awarded major contracts from the emerging telecommunications operators of the country by then. Its presence has been continuously expanding and aggressively providing solutions in the telecom and IT industry..

Currently, we are looking for additional team players for the IT and Telecom business areas:

SALES ENGINEER

(IT Business Unit)

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Must have a degree in IT, ECE or related business courses;
2. With at least 3 years sales experience in handling accounts in IT and related industry;
3. Must have sound knowledge of technology both in IT hardware and software products and solutions;
4. With excellent understanding of Internet Infrastructure, LAN/WAN, Router/Switch Technologies;
5. Has strong customer service and teamwork orientation ;
6. Excellent command in verbal and written communications ;

SALES EXECUTIVE

(Telecom Business Unit)

QUALIFICATIONS:

1 Preferably ECE or Marketing graduate;
2 With at least 3 years sales and marketing experience handling accounts in Marine, Mining, Government sector and other related industry;
3 Knowledge in wireless transmission such as RF and satellite an advantage;
4 Must be computer literate at least MS Office;
5 Excellent command in verbal and written communications ;

Interested applicants are requested to submit their personal profile with recent passport picture to :

NERA PHILIPPINES, INC.
8th Fl Multinationalbancorporation Centre
6805 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No 8452971 loc 207 / Fax : 8453512
Email : tes@neraphil.com.ph

Note: We shall reply only to candidates meeting the minimum requirements stated above. Thank you.

With more than 41 call centers worldwide, Sykes is not only a global leader in providing customer and technical support services for many of the world's best known companies, but it is also known to build fast track dynamic careers.

If you are dynamic, assertive, confident, self-motivated and customer oriented individual – this is the job for you. Due to our current expansion, Sykes is currently looking for bright **TECHNICAL SUPPORT ENGINEERS** and **CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES** for our various Project Accounts.

SYKES SM

Training Officer (Train-Off)

- Graduate of any 4 year course preferably in Psychology, Behavioral Science or the equivalent
- At least 3 years Training experience, preferably gained in a call center environment
- Must be able to create and design training modules/programs
- Able to conduct training modules for English enhancement; Certified ESL Trainer an advantage
- Proactive, assertive and can work under pressure
- Attention to detail; flexible approach and eagerness to learn with knowledge on BKM (Best known practices)
- Ability to analyze and interpret information
- Proficient in PC applications (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Willing to work on shifting schedule

Software Engineers (SW-GP)

- Graduate of any 4 or 5 year college degree preferably Computer Science, Computer Engineering or any computer-related courses
- Strong Programming/Object Oriented Programming Skills
- Strong Microsoft SQL Server Knowledge
- COM/COM+, DCOM, XML
- Good Microsoft Application Technologies
- General Microsoft Programming and Development Tools, Visual Studio, .Net
- Strong Networking Infrastructure principles
- Fluent in English communication skills
- Willing to do technical support and work on graveyard shifts.

Technical Support Engineers (TSE)

- Graduate of any 4 or 5 year college degree preferably Computer Science, Computer Engineering or any computer-related courses
- Knowledgeable in hardware and software troubleshooting and networking
- Knowledge Printer and Scanner configuration an advantage
- Familiar or Proficient with any of the following Operating Systems (Windows, Linux, Macintosh)
- Excellent reading comprehension skills, problem solving and data analysis skills
- Has the ability to absorb and utilize complex information
- Has initiative, an eye for detail and excellent customer service skills
- Basic knowledge of web technology and the Internet
- Fluent in English and excellent business writing skills
- Willing to work on shifting and night schedule

Customer Service Representatives – Foreign Languages (CSR– Foreign Lang)

- At least College level (College graduate an advantage)
- Strong customer service orientation and willing to work on extended hours
- Conversant in Oral and Written English communication skills
- Proficient in use of e-mail with strong typing skills; knowledgeable in Word processing software and Excel
- Fluent in any of the following language:
  - *Mandarin -Cantonese -Indonesian -Thai*
  - *Korean -Japanese -Spanish -German*
  - *Vietnamese -Malay -Vietnamese -Malay*

Customer Service Representatives (CSR)

- Graduate of any 4 or 5 year course
- Minimum of 12 months work experience in a customer service environment, 6 months experience in a call center industry preferred
- Fresh Graduates are welcome to apply
- Proficient in use of e-mail with strong typing skills; knowledgeable in MS applications such as Word and Excel
- Basic knowledge of web technology and the Internet
- Fluent in English and excellent business writing skills
- Willing to work on shifting and night schedule and willing to be based in Makati or Ortigas Office

Account Managers (AM)

- Must be a College graduate of any course; MA or MBA degree holders, an advantage
- With at least 6 years experience in Account Management preferably gained from a service-oriented industry; related work experience in a Call Center, an advantage
- At least 4 years people management experience
- Knowledgeable in contract reviews, budget analysis and management, statistical analysis and reporting
- Experience in using the following Operating Systems Windows, Macintosh and/or Unix with excellent Technical and Network troubleshooting skills
- Experience in supporting DHCP, TCP/IP, LAN, WAN, WINS, DNS (BIND), SMTP, Routing, VPN, RAS
- Fundamental understanding of web engineering and web business
- Skilled in negotiation and conflict resolution
- Willingness to work on night shift, an essential

As these are URGENT position vacancies, qualified applicants are encouraged to send their updated CV's with a photocopy of their Transcript of Records o or before September 5, 2003 to: SYKES ASIA, INC., 28F Robinson's Summit Building, Ayala Ave., Makati City or visit http://www.sykes.com to submit your resume online and for more information about the Company.

The Justice Reform Initiatives Support (JURIS) Project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency is urgently in need of a

Finance and Administrative Officer

With the following terms of reference

- ☐ Ensure the smooth administrative and financial operations of the project office, to be located in the Ortigas area
- ☐ Establish and maintain an accurate, timely and reliable financial disbursement and accounting system
- ☐ Organize the secretariat work of project meetings and conferences
- ☐ Establish a project operations manual and provide advisory services to project partners

Qualifications

- ☐ preferably a finance, legal/management or accounting graduate
- ☐ at least 3 years of experience in office management, financial administration and secretariat work/events coordination
- ☐ highly proficient in MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint, and other accounting and management software
- ☐ high degree of initiative in running an office and meeting deadlines for administrative tasks and responsibilities

Salary and benefits shall be negotiable and commensurate to experience.

Please send your application letters and comprehensive resumés by fax, email or mail to the following address no later than September 5, 2003; Philipines Canada Cooperation Office, Unit 1402, 139 Corporate Center, 139 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Fax no. 817-6920. Email address: pcco.log@cidamnl.com.ph Cvs should be in Microsoft Word format.

BE A PART OF A TEAM COMMITTED TO JUSTICE REFORMS IN OUR COUNTRY!

A leading Metal Base Furniture Manufacturer and Distributor Urgently Needs:

INSTITUTIONAL SALES MANAGER

- Male/Female, between 30-40 years old
- College graduate - preferably Business, Marketing, Architecture related course
- Minimum of three (3) years sales experience in managerial position
- Possess exceptional interpersonal skills
- Highly confident and aggressive
- With proven ability to motivate and inspire people
- Willing to travel
- Willing to work on extended hours
- Driving skills an advantage

DELIVERY DRIVERS

- Male - between 25-35 years old
- Driving experience with 6 wheeler truck
- Knowledge of basic vehicle trouble shooting

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES - INSTITUTIONAL SALES

- Male/Female, between 25-30 years old
- College graduate - preferably Business related course
- Minimum of two (2) years sales experience
- Experience in institutional selling an advantage

VISUAL MERCHANDIZER

- Male or female, between 25-30 years old
- Graduate of Fine Arts, Advertising or Interior Design
- Experience in store layout and design
- Artistic, creative, excellent communication skills
- Familiarity with furniture an advantage
- Computer literate (Auto CAD, Adobe Photoshop, etc.)

Send resumé with latest 2"x2" photo at:

QC - 2003-72
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F St. Anthony's Bldg.
891 Aurora Boulevard cor. Oxford St. Cubao, Quezon City 1109
E-mail: cubao_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph
Subject: Institutional Sales Manager

International Rectifier

International Rectifier, one of the world's leader in the design and manufacture of Power Management semiconductor products is currently looking for a dynamic; self driven and results oriented

ENGINEERING MANAGER

to support the expanding assembly and test operations in Xian, China.

Experience Required:

☑ Must posses the following:
- Worked as Engineering Manager for at least 5 years with proven track record in developing a strong technical/engineering culture
- With hands-on experience using problem solving tools
- Strong leadership and team organization skills
- Strong resource and priority management skills
- Ability to coordinate/interface with senior management, as well as global contacts

☑ ISO9000 or QS9000 knowledge is a must
☑ Excellent written and oral communication skills in English; conversational Mandarin skill preferred
☑ Willing to be relocated in Xian, China

Educational Background:

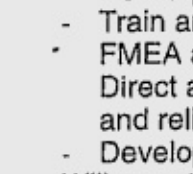
☑ This position requires a BS/MS engineering or physics graduate with at least 10 years of work experience. Strong computer skills for use in data analysis is a must.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Will be responsible to:
  - Develop a strong, innovative and sustainable technical/engineering culture
  - Train and develop engineers on the use of engineering tools such DOE, FEA, FMEA and 8D problem solving methodology
    Direct and lead technical studies to improve product's manufacturability, quality and reliability
  - Develop and implement process and equipment improvements
- Will report directly to the General Manager (Filipino expatriate in Xian, China)

An attractive compensation package awaits the deserving candidate. Qualified applicants may e-mail their resume to **tzhang1@irf.com**. Information about International Rectifier can be browsed at our website: ***www.irf.com***.

Where you find the best.



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VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

IMMEDIATE HIRING

BY A REPUTABLE CUSTOMS BROKERAGE, TRUCKING & FORWARDING COMPANY

ASST. MANAGER FOR CUSTOMS BROKERAGE

with wide experience in customs brokerage business, preferably licensed and computer literate

ASST. MANAGER FOR TRUCKING & FORWARDING

with wide experience and computer literate

Apply with valid documents at:

18th Floor, MARC 2000 Tower,
1973 Taft Ave. cor. San Andres St., Malate, Manila
Tel. No. 521-42-52; 536-2793
See Mr. Emil F. Domingo or fax resumé at Fax No: 521-9538

Copeland

Copeland Corporation, a subsidiary of Emerson Electric Company since 1986, is a world leader in the production of compressors, condensing units and electronics for commercial refrigeration and residential and commercial air-conditioning applications.

Founded in Detroit, Michigan in 1921 by Edmund Copeland, the company has established an international reputation for technological innovation, manufacturing excellence, quality and service. During eight decades, Copeland has grown to more than 8,000 employees worldwide and is one of the largest businesses in the Emerson organization. Copeland operates through several business divisions, each focused on compressor solutions that meet specific market needs: Copeland Air-Conditioning, Copeland Refrigeration, Copeland Europe, Copeland Asia Pacific.

We offer more than 10,000 compressor models in a full range of technologies,including scroll reciprocation and screw compressor designs. The company is best known for pioneering the introduction of scroll technology to the HVAC/R marketplace.

EMERSON. CONSIDER IT SOLVED.

Copeland and SYKES are partnering in the Philippines to set up a Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVACR) Application Center in Manila

APPLICATION ENGINEERS (HVAC)

The candidates will act as the first level of escalation for application related inquiry and is responsible for creating and updating knowledge base.

Qualification Guidelines:

- Graduate of BS Mechanical Engineering or equivalent
- At least 2 years design/installation/service experience with Air-conditioning/Refrigeration Systems Manufacturer or with Services Contractor. Refrigeration expertise preferred.
- Strong technical expertise in analyzing and diagnosing problems in refrigerant circuits
- Proven ability to troubleshoot problems and to bring them to a satisfactory resolution with customers
- High comfort level with web and computer tools needed
- Very good oral and written English communication skills

INSIDE SALES ENGINEERS

The candidates will respond to product related inquiry through phone, e-mail and fax. They will need to maintain strong and close relationship with customers.

Qualification Guidelines:

- Graduate of any B.S. degree, preferably in Engineering
- Tele-sales experience
- Excellent oral and written English communication skills
- High attention to details
- Right attitude, skills and personality to be trained to support customers in both technical and commercial areas

A highly competitive compensation & benefits package, state-of-the-art training, and excellent opportunities for career growth await every candidate

Interested candidates may email their comprehensive resumes to hrdeman.ph.sykes.com or may personally submit their resumes at the Sykes office, 28th floor Robinsons Summit Bldg. Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

SYKES

GEORGE GARRETT GUILFORD & ASSOCIATES

PIPELINE OPERATIONS ENGINEER

Our client, ***a global player in the oil and gas industry***, is looking for a top caliber ***Filipino Mechanical Engineer*** with the following qualifications:

- A Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from a reputable local or international university
- Minimum of 5 years experience on offshore and onshore pipelines, with a solid knowledge of inspection, maintenance and repair (IMR) methods
- Knowledge and experience in pipeline design techniques
- Experience in integrity management related to pipelines
- Knowledgeable of other underwater (subsea) assets

The Company is prepared to offer an attractive compensation package. The successful candidate can look forward to being part of a dynamic technical team executing a wide range of pipeline related work as well as the opportunity for international postings.

We invite interested qualified candidates to email their comprehensive CVs detailing work experience, job responsibilities and work accomplishments to the following address:

esl@georgegarrettguilford.com

ADB Fighting Poverty in Asia and the Pacific

Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

Consultation Coordination Officer

Reporting Arrangements

The position reports to the Senior Project Facilitation Specialist, Office of the Special Project Facilitator (OSPF).

The position is responsible for providing administrative, analytical and technical support in the implementation of the new ADB Accountability Mechanism for ADB-assisted projects. Information on the new ADB Accountability Mechanism, including the OSPF, is available on the ADB homepage at http://www.adb.org.

Description of Responsibilities

- Conducting preliminary review of complaints received by ensuring that these are within the scope of the consultation phase and do not fall under any of the exclusions stated in the Board paper on the establishment of a new ADB accountability mechanism;
- Facilitating effective conduct of review of complaints by checking the eligibility requirements and ensuring completeness of the contents of complaints;
- Ensuring the preparation of comprehensive report on the review of the complaint including its disposition and resolution, monitoring and reporting on the status of these complaints;
- Ensuring that the procedural steps and proposed time frames for the consultation process are observed and monitored;
- Ensuring the availability, accuracy and efficient retrieval of information needed for the review, analysis, and monitoring of complaints received;
- Assisting in selection and engagement of consultants required to assist the Special Project Facilitator (SPF) in carrying out his/her work, including follow-up on contract variations and reporting requirements;
- Maintaining web site and ensuring that documents and events are updated regularly, including maintenance of the registry of complaints;
- Collating, preparing and finalizing materials for annual reports and other publications, including arranging their publication;
- Collecting information in suitable form for publication of brochures and information materials relating to the consultation phase for public dissemination and conducting public outreach and coordinating with the Office of the Compliance Review Panel (OCRP);
- Collating internal and external experiences of problem-solving to be fed back into ADB operations, and providing the information to OCRP and coordinating with OCRP;
- Participating in missions, if required, assisting in consultation processes, and preparing back-to-office and other reports;
- Organizing seminars and related workshops for discharge of functions of OSPF, including public outreach;
- Assisting in the preparation and implementation of the OSPF budget and coordinating with OCRP; and
- Performing any other duties as may be required for the administrative functioning of OSPF.

Selection Criteria

- Suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned at the required level;
- A university degree in Management, Liberal Arts, Economics or related fields;
- At least seven (7) years of relevant experience;
- Ability to take a body of data and information, and organize the component ideas into a logical sequence for written presentation;
- Knowledge and understanding of the operations, project cycle, policies and procedures, and related matters of multilateral development and financing agencies;
- Good conceptual and analytical skills;
- Proven ability to identify issues and relevant facts;
- Good interpersonal skills, with ability to liaise and work effectively with staff, Management and Board of Directors and with external clients, member governments, executing agencies and civil society;
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office applications (word processing, spreadsheets, and graphics); and
- Excellent command of written and spoken English.

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its national officers locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-N003-097(3)-OSPF** and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on http://www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: **CS-jobs@adb.org by 12 September 2003.** External applicants who have responded to this position advertised earlier on the ADB web site need not resubmit their applications. Their applications will be considered together with applications received in response to this advertisement.

Human Resources Division,
Asian Development Bank
P.O. Box 789,0980 Manila Philippines

Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

SEE OUR WORLD AND BRING A NEW PERSPECTIVE INTO IT.

JOAQUIN CUNANAN & CO.

A member firm of PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT — A CREATIVE, MULTI-FACETED ROLE
We are looking for a person with at least two years' experience in the development and design of marketing support materials, such as corporate publications, proposals, electronic presentations and Lotus Notes databases. He should also have experience in events and website management.
Success in the position demands the ability to work effectively with different levels of people within and outside of the organization. The position also calls for excellent communication skills and flexibility in performing various duties as part of the support services team. Knowledge in PageMaker, Photoshop, Illustrator, and Flash will be an advantage.

HR ASSOCIATE, HR TECHNICAL ASSISTANT — NURTURE A CAREER IN HR
We are looking for graduates of Psychology, Behavioral Science, Business Management, or Marketing. Experience in the field of Human Resource is an advantage. Good verbal and written communication skills are important for this position.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY — BE A TEAM PLAYER
We are looking for a college graduate with 2-3 years' experience performing administrative and/or secretarial work. The candidate should possess good verbal and written communication skills and be computer literate.

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED
This is an excellent opportunity to join one of the world's most prestigious organizations. Please send a full résumé to: Human Resources Department, Joaquin Cunanan & Co., 29th Floor, Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City by August 29, 2003. Email: mae.anne.t.fuentes@ph.pwc.com.
www.pwc.com/ph

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JAPANESE MANUFACTURING COMPANY is in need of:

Account Executive

- Female, not over 35 years old, with pleasing personality
- College graduate with a degree in Engineering, Architecture, Marketing or Business Administration
- With at least 2 years experience in Sales, Honest, Hardworking, possesses strong technical aptitude, conversant in system design / application and with good communication skills
- Must be residing within the South Area

Qualified applicants may submit personally:

Please bring Detailed Personal Data with 2 x 2 ID picture, NBI clearance

TO: **ZEPHYR SYSTEMS TECH-TRADE, INC.**
c/o Sylvia Zamayla
#308, 3/F DLA Ventures Bldg., Nat'l. Road
Putatan, Muntinlupa City

WANTED

Technical Sales Representatives

Qualifications:

1. BS Chem or BS Micro Graduate
2. With 2 years experience in laboratory work

Send Resumé and Transcript of Records to:
Brownstone Asia-Tech, Inc.
#10-A H. Poblador St., Brgy. Hagdan Bato
Libis, Mandaluyong City

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

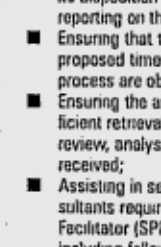
PRODUCT SPECIALIST

(Construction materials)

- Fresh graduates are welcome
- Must possess good market potentials
- Hardworking and Trustworthy

Interested applicants may bring their resume and 2x2 ID picture to:

Whistler Steel Industries
#27 Sampaguita Compd., Granada St., Q.C.
Tel. nos.: 727-2470 • 724-6524



Send those resumés instantly.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOBMarket ONLINE

RGE AGRIDEV CORPORATION

One of the leading Philippine seafood processor and exporter of world-class quality seafood products to the United States and other markets has an urgent need for a:

Management Trainee

Responsible for overseeing the processing, warehousing and shipping of world-class quality seafood products to RGE customers at the Cebu Plant.

The minimum required qualifications are as follows:

- Graduate of Electrical or Industrial Engineering
- Credited with at least seven (7) years work experience in Production Operations / Manufacturing; at least four (4) years supervisory experience
- Full competence on cold chain management, production, quality control, logistics and engineering services
- Computer literate, particularly in Microsoft applications such as Word, Excel, and PowerPoint
- A team player with excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Possesses management and leadership competencies

Applicants are requested to submit personally, mail, or e-mail a comprehensive resumé with recent 2x2 picture and transcript of records to the address indicated below not later than September 15, 2003. Kindly indicate your latest compensation package and contact phone numbers for immediate processing.

Cebu Plant Address	: Sugeco Compound, Suba Masulog, Basak, Lapu Lapu City 6015, Cebu, Philippines	Head Office Address	: Unit 2810, Jollibee Plaza Bldg., Emerald Ave. Ortigas Center Pasig City
Telephone No.	: (032) 495-6365	Telephone No.	: (02) 637-0036
E-mail Address:	: rge.cebu@pacific.net.ph	E-mail Address:	: rge.manila@pacific.net.ph

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2003
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☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F Trinity Bldg., 636 T.M. Kalaw St., Manila
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
Alabang, Muntinlupa City
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465

Where You Find The Best.

NURSES FOR NEW ZEALAND

Reliable Recruitment Corporation (POEA License No. 280LB-052802-R
In cooperation with Recruitment Int'l. (NZ) Ltd. Accred. No. 70094

Urgently needed 46 Registered Nurses to work in NEW ZEALAND.
At least 2 years solid working experience in a hospital.

- 12 months contract (renewable)
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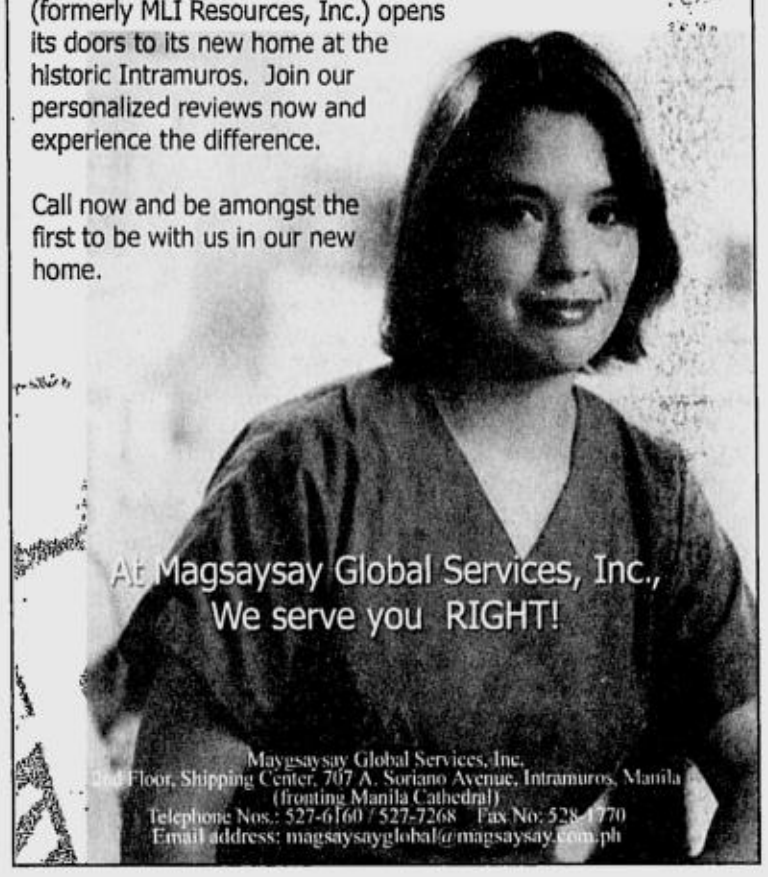

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Interviews this week.

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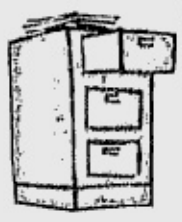

Resumé Box

We gather your resumés and forward them to companies with employment needs.

Humor in a call center

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

WORKING OOPS!

By Big Mouth

I STARTED my career in customer service as a customer service representative (CSR) in the call center of a telecommunications company (way back when mobile phones were still huge). It was a boring job, but not one without comic relief. My coworkers and I often spent office breaks regaling each other with anecdotes of funny encounters with customers.

For instance, there was this man who was concerned about voice call charges that he claimed were never made through his cell phone. He worriedly asked the CSR who received his call, "Miss, *baka* na *ka-clown na ako*?" We knew that he meant to say "*nakotone*" meaning, somebody might be technically manipulating his account to make unscrupulous calls.

I also had my share of zany run-ins with clients. One time, I got a call from a distressed woman calling from the province and complaining that she could not make calls abroad. "The whole point of buying this unit is so that I can call my husband in the U. S. and this phone is useless *pala*!" She whined. So, I asked her all the rudimentary troubleshooting questions like: Is the cell phone turned on, Ma'am? Is there a signal? Is the dialing sequence correct? She answered yes to all the questions. Then, it suddenly dawned on me to check if the phone had been enabled to make IDD calls. And so I asked, "Ma'am, have you applied for the IDD feature?" She declared, "But, of course!" Stumped, I checked her records and saw that her account did not reflect this. I told her, "But, Ma'am, your record says you don't have the IDD feature." She replied, "*Teka, teka ano bang kailangan nyo? Nagpasa na ako ng 2 by 2. Kailangan pa ba* half-body or full-body?" She thought I was asking about an ID picture!

And then, there is this experience of my friend named Dodo Dumugho. This happened in the mid-90s when mobile phones were run by analog technology and vulnerable to "cloning." The caller was complaining about the possibility of his phone being "cloned." After a long conversation, the caller demanded to know my friend's name as follows:

Customer: *Anong pangalan mo?*

Friend: Dodo Dumugho, *po.*

Customer: *Ano?* Dodo Dumughopo?

Friend: *Hindi po*, Dodo Dumugho *lang.*

Customer: (Sounding confused) *Dodo Dumugholang?*

Friend: No, Sir, Dodo Dumugho.

Customer: Dodo Dumog?

Friend: Sir, Dumugho *ang apelyido ko.*

Customer: *Oo nga*, Dumog.

Friend: Sir (spells out his surname), D-U-M-U-G-H-O.

Customer: *Ah*, Dumugho! Dodo Dumugho!

Friend: *Opo*, Dodo Dumugho.

Then the customer put down the phone.

(Send your contributions to Working Oops to peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.)

FILIPINA workers assemble micro motor fans for computers at the Sanyo Denki plant in Subic Bay industrial area, northern Philippines. The Japanese plant employing 1,530 Filipino workers export its products to Japan. The Philippines electronics export is expected to grow 10 percent in 2003 from a year earlier to 26 billion US Dollars despite a decline in global demand for microchips and wireless products, according to figures by the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines (SEIPI). AFP

'I hate my job!'

By Cindy Kraft

UNHAPPY in your job? If you said yes, you are in the majority. That is, you join ranks with the other 87 percent of the population employed in jobs they hate.

Think about it for a minute. You spend eight to nine hours at day in a place you despise, doing work you hate. You probably spend another three to four hours every day getting ready to go there, actually commuting, and then complaining about how much you hate your job when you leave. That is approximately half of your day, every day, five days a week, which you spend unhappy, negative, irritable, maybe even depressed. No wonder everybody is so angry all the time!

So when you finally get fed up with your job, what do you do? In your haste to leave a situation that is so unpalatable you can't wait even one more day to leave, do you move right into another job that is equally unpleasant—doing the same things you hate, just in a different environment?

If you've been caught on that I-hate-my-job roller coaster for a while, it's time to get off. Take a little time to evaluate your skills—what motivates you, what interests you, what is your personality style, and equally important, what are your burnout skills? You may be great at doing something, but if you are burned out using that skill—and hate doing what you are doing—then perhaps it is time for a change.

Oftentimes, a burnout skill can put you in line for a promotion—because you have expertise in that area. If you work in a large company, have you ever noticed that a few weeks after someone gets a promotion, they leave? In some cases, it is because they have been asked to use even more of a burnout skill—something they do well, but hate doing.

A line from Captain Andy in Showboat says, "The lucky folks are the ones that get to do things they enjoy doing." Are they really "lucky?" They are certainly happier, more energetic, and more enthusiastic.

Capitalize on your motivational and interest skills and move into a job you love! A job you look forward going to every day, eight to nine hours that fly by everyday because you are happy doing your job, a pleasant commute home as you reflect on your satisfaction at a job well done, and most importantly, happy, positive interaction with your family and friends as you banter about "your great day at the office."

(Reprinted with permission from www.career-management-coach.com.)

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- Graduate of any 4 year business course

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Call center provides a line to the land of milk and honey for job seekers

By Candy G. Villanueva

CALL centers are sprouting like mushrooms nowadays. Many job seekers with diverse backgrounds are joining the call center bandwagon. In spite of the unusual work shifts, the attractive compensation and the added perks more than make up for the risk of totally altering one's body clock. Even undergraduates are given a shot at earning as much as, or even more than, an executive.

Inaugurated in the Philippines early this year, RMH Teleservices Asia Pacific, Inc. is one of the newest call center companies in the country. It provides directory service to citizens in the United States. In the United States, you can dial 411 for directory assistance and you will get connected to Directory Assistance Agents or operators.

Hiring mode

RMH is looking at employing hundreds of agents by the end of the year. Thus, it is working overtime to draw many job seekers to join their company. At the helm of their hiring team is Sandee E. Parra, RMH's Human Resources Manager.

To handle the overwhelming number of applicants, Parra has installed an effective and efficient hiring system. With the company in its adjustment stage, there is a lot of pressure on this HR manager's shoulders to build a productive workforce and develop a competency-based type of human resource management. She calmly handles the challenge "by constantly looking at the big picture and challenging the status quo." According to Parra, "There should always be room for innovation and improvement. It is important to constantly assess where you're going and why."

RMH's business is customer relationship management and Parra considers the employees and applicants as her customers. She relies on her 16-year HR experience to effectively deal with her customers.

HR track record

With a degree in accounting from Ateneo de Davao, she first embarked on her human resources journey with the SGV Group. As a management consultant in the Management Services Division, she first learned the art of people management by specializing in organization and human resources management (OHRM). SGV proved to be a good training ground for this HR professional because it exposed her to job evaluation, compensation and organizational review studies.

After three years with SGV, she ventured into other industries. Steniel Manufacturing Corporation became Parra's home for two years. Then, in 1991, Parra found herself handling personnel administration for Shangri-La's Edsa Plaza Hotel. She moved to Belle Corporation in 1995 as vice president for human

HR Focus

resources. After six years, she took on the role of senior consultant for Performex, Inc., a management consulting firm specializing in the field of customer service training, organization development and competency-based human resources systems. Then, she became director of human resources for the Asian Hospital and Medical Center in 2002, before finally finding a home in RMH. While she is a human resource professional, Parra is also a certified public accountant.

Vocation

Sandee Parra attributes her long but rewarding journey in HR to love for work, discipline and self-motivation. She claims that she loves HR because it is constantly evolving. "There is never a dull moment," Parra adds enthusiastically. She also revels in the fact that her job enables her to help make a difference in people's lives. RMH's HR manager claims, "There is something noble about helping others by helping people find jobs or mentoring people and helping them to grow successfully in their careers." She adds, "It's like a vocation that you embrace."

Aside from love for the job, Parra credits her success to other factors. She constantly challenges herself to perform and excel in everything that she does. In addition, this motivating manager encourages productivity by setting a good example. "The challenge is for you to be constantly aware that you are a role model in the organization and hopefully, you earn the respect of your colleagues and team members," she states.

People skills

Since HR is a people business, Parra stresses the importance of people skills. This role model develops people skills by "finding out what people's strengths are and building on them." Parra goes on to say, "It is very important that people become confident first before they handle challenging roles or difficult tasks." RMH's strong willed manager doesn't give up easily. "I make sure that all the support is given and it is really up to the person to shine or not."

RMH hires undergraduates as well as degree holders as agents. As long as they fit the bill, applicants are considered. Their team managers, though, must have management experience and leadership skills.

Competencies

Since directory assistance agents deal with Americans, a vital qualification is English communication and comprehension skills. In addition, applicants should be able to easily adapt to the American culture. Agents must also be efficient, accurate and fast. They should be able to deal with the pressures of the job especially with callers who have a tendency to be testy and impatient.

If applicants think they can hack it, the returns are gratifying. RMH has developed a very competitive compensation package for its employees. On top of the basic pay, employees are also entitled to monthly bonuses or incentives based on performance evaluation results.

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SANDEE Parra, RMH's human resource manager

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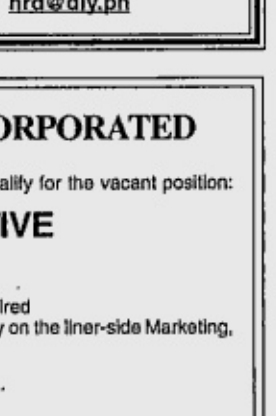

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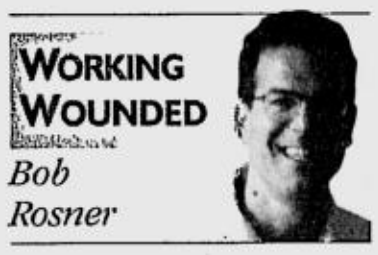
Sunday PEOPLE at WORK

Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

What do you do when you get stuck while negotiating?



DEAR WW: I'm involved in a negotiation that seems to be terminally stuck. Both sides are so entrenched in their positions that we've had to take a break in the negotiation to give everybody a chance to reconsider. But I still can't see anyone budging.

Stuck In Negotiating Muck

Talk about stuck in negotiating muck! I was once stuck in the middle of a negotiation in Thailand—caught between the driver of a Bangkok taxi and the mucky-muck of a big American bank. The mucky-muck was negotiating for a cab ride to our hotel, using every capitalist muscle she could muster-and the driver wasn't budging. After they'd haggled, red-faced, for a full ten minutes, I pointed out to the banker that she was arguing over what was the equivalent of seven cents. She got red-faced all over again and climbed quietly into the cab.

Negotiating strategies

Well, as you've pointed out, you don't have to be in Bangkok to get stuck negotiating. The following strategies will help you in any kind of negotiation, whether with a boss, a customer or even a Bangkok taxi driver. For more information, check out Peter Senge's Fifth Discipline Fieldbook (Currency, 1994).

Do you embrace the impasse? Often, when negotiators get stuck, they deny their own "stuckness" and keep rehashing their positions. But that only gets them "stucker." It's far better to sit back and say, "We're stuck!" and then ask, "What do you think we should do about it?"

Focus on agreements

Do you know where you agree and disagree? Negotiations often sour because the two parties focus exclusively on areas of disagreement. Try focusing instead on your areas of agreement and shared goals. Focusing on the shared goal may highlight a path to get there, and remembering your areas of agreement may make traversing that path easier.

Can you bring in new information? Negotiations break down when the parties hash and rehash their positions, neither side adding anything new. When that happens, do some research to bring in new information.

New information

If you're negotiating over a service contract, investigate similar contracts for ideas. If you're negotiating over salaries, talk to people in other companies to get a sense of comparables.

New info almost always jumpstarts negotiations. Can you ask, "What would change your mind?" It's the most direct, most basic, question, yet most of us never ask it. More often than not, it will open up a negotiating door that you otherwise might never notice.

Do you really listen to the other side's concerns? All too often in negotiations we're so busy preparing our rebuttal that we don't fully hear what the other party said. But active listening—where you actually stop talking and planning and just LISTEN—can enable you to hear those small areas of agreement where deals can be struck.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

It's amazing how often negotiations get bogged down because people lose their common sense over a couple of cents. Keep your eyes on the big picture and you'll get wherever you want to go.

Poll results

Here are the results of our last working-wounded.com / ABCnews.com poll: What do you do when you get stuck negotiating with someone at work?

—Stuck is okay (I'm on salary), 14.2%

—Pressure them to solve the problem, 31.6%

—Put pressure on myself to solve the problem, 54.1%

(Mr. Rosner is the author of bestsellers "The Boss's Survival Guide," McGraw Hill 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, a speaker and founder of the award-winning Working Wounded.com and Retention-Evangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at bob@workingwounded. com.)

Job seeker has difficulty speaking in English during interviews

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

By Tita Datu Puangco

I AM 23 years old. I am a reader of your column and I am very grateful that there is such a column that helps people with their career problems. I have a problem speaking in English. I can write in English though. However, whenever I am interviewed for job vacancies, I find it hard to think of the right words to say.

I really want to change and improve but I don't know how. I tried reading different articles in English, watching movies and news in English, as others would usually recommend. I don't know why I still have a hard time speaking and thinking of words to say quickly. I have an interview next week. I wish you could help me. Thanks in advance.

Challenged Applicant

Your challenge is, you are good in written communication but not as good in oral communication. So how do you improve your skill in oral English? Language is a skill. And just like other skills, practice makes perfect. I remember how in grade school our teachers insisted we speak English on campus. Every time we were caught speaking in Pilipino, we would get demerits. At that time, we resented the seemingly unreasonable imposition. But time has proven them right. In today's world, globalization has made English a world language. So being able to speak and write in English provides a person with competitive advantage.

Campaign

My suggestion is to engage your family in a "speak English campaign." Everyone in the family can agree that for dinnertime, just an hour a day, everyone should speak in English. It may sound funny and ridiculous at first. But soon you will get the hang of it. Do this for week and you will find yourself being more confident speaking the language,

Another possible cause for your difficulty may be a lack of vocabulary. To address this, try to acquire 10 new words a day. Try to remember and use them in conversation. Before long, you will have a rich enough vocabulary that will give you the words you need to express yourself.

Interview preparation

Now, what to do with your forthcoming interview? First, you have to know clearly the demands of the job you are applying for. What are the key success factors in this type of work? Then, identify the competencies, behavior and attitudes that your interviewer would

be looking for. Write out sample questions that the interviewer is likely to ask for each of the factors. Write down your answer to each of the questions.

Pretest the content of your answers with someone knowledgeable. Use the answers as an actor would use a script. Practice. Practice. Practice. Say the words aloud till you can say them without fumbling or stammering. Better still, practice in front of the mirror.

Rehearsal

Then, invite a friend for a peak performance rehearsal. Ask him to play the role of the interviewer while you answer the questions with clear enunciation and confidence. This will increase the chances of your answering correctly eighty percent of the questions.

Here are some final tips for the interview. Try to visualize yourself walking towards the interviewer, shaking his hand and smiling and adopting an assertive posture.

On the day of the interview, make sure you arrive on time so you can take 10 deep breaths to relax you. Make sure you dress appropriately in the dress code and culture of the company.

All the best. God bless you and give you the grace to pass you interview.

(Ms. Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Seed feedback through email to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph or fax to 892-2902.)

WHAT'S INSIDE

HR Focus L14

Working Oops! L12

'I hate my job!' L12

A story to digest

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

THERE are people whose work consists of taking care of other people's minds or souls. They do not get paid like ordinary employees but the work they do may even be more demanding than what the usual employment asks for, in that they are expected to be "more perfect" than regular guys like you and me. Today's gospel focus reminds me of someone whose work was like that.

He was a pillar in his community of devotees who promote, among other things, vegetarianism as a non-violent way of nourishing oneself. Believing that wars are perpetrated by humans' practice of killing (animals) in order to eat, they kept their meals free of meat, fish, eggs and dairy products. So this guy lectured with conviction on the tenets of their religion, and because their community members reflected kindness, simplicity and harmony, they attracted friends without even trying.

Then, one day, craving for the exquisite vegetarian treats from their kitchen, I dropped by their Center, only to be shocked by the news that he had left everything—his work, the community, his virtuous and beauteous wife, etc. He had eloped with an old flame who frequented the Center wanting to be converted to their religion. The Community calmly told me his story but their sorrow in seeing a pillar of strength come crashing down was almost palpable. I felt sorry for him but I also lamented the fact that he who would not kill a chicken to eat could mortally injure the spiritual life of his hopeful followers. How so, so sad! *(Email the author at avemaria@csi.com.ph.)*

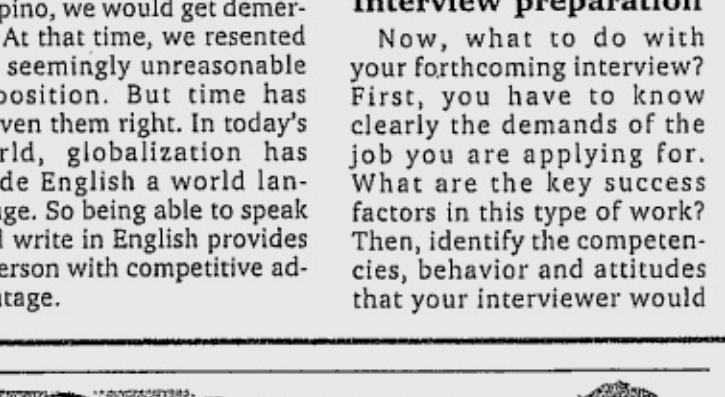


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

Mk 7:1-8; 14-15; 21-23

...They observed that some of his disciples ate their meals with unclean hands...He said to them, "... Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile."

What affects you?

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB,DD

NOWADAYS, it seems nothing can escape from the curious eyes of the media. Both news broadcasts and broadsheets dish out almost daily exposes of graft and corruption, acts of violence and terrorism and scandals of all kinds. One who listens to or reads this depressing news is normally affected. He could begin to think and feel negative about things, people and events.

There may not be big scandals or notorious happenings in our day-to-day work, but some elements in the work environment influence us and slowly shape our mind and heart. The routine, repetitive, and mechanical nature of work tend to develop the robot in us. Boredom and fatigue in work may dull our taste for a better life and meaningful existence. Formal work structures promote relationships among coworkers devoid of personal care and concern. Bad examples shown by work supervisors or managers may unconsciously lead to petty corrupt practices in the workplace. These and other external things might defile the integrity of the worker.

However, Jesus teaches, "Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person, but the things that come out from within are what defile." He gives us the "eyes" to see and to value more what is within us than what is outside of us. When we believe that God dwells within us, we perceive the goodness and beauty in us more than the evil around us. When we think with the mind of Jesus and feel with His heart, nothing in our daily work can ruin us; everything becomes a meaningful and liberating experience. *(Email the author at mfv@skyinet.net.)*

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

August 31, 2003

Rod T. Reyes and Ermin Garcia

The Would-Be President's Men

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By Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz
Photographs by Ernie U. Sarmiento and Rudy Esperas

MENTION Rod Reyes, and seasoned journalists immediately recall his exploits as a young reporter who went undercover to get the inside dope on a drug den in the 1960s. Mention Cojuangco, and people remember the recent Sandiganbayan ruling that gave back to the government the UCPB shares that the businessman had reportedly bought with the coconut farmers' levy funds and had controlled since the 1970s.

Former Manila Times publisher Ermin Garcia took over his father's community paper when crusading journalist Ermin Garcia Sr. was gunned down in Dagupan in 1966. Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, Garcia's principal, still has to contend with the inevitable Kuratong Baleleng and narcopolitics qualifiers attached to his name in news reports.

Politics make strange bedfellows, indeed.

It was, in fact, his brief foray into politics that convinced Reyes to join the Volunteers for Danding, a group pushing this San Miguel Corporation chair to gun for the presidency in 2004. "When I ran for congress in Parañaque in 2001 and was campaigning, I saw how people lived in depressed areas while graft and corruption thrive. And I asked myself, what kind of society are we leaving our children?"

It was the same question he asked when he looked around for a candidate to support, says Reyes. "Despite whatever sins they've attributed to Cojuangco, he is of the same mind." The newspapers, he decries, have highlighted the side of the coconut farmers and the government, "but if you talk to

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So what are good guys Rod Reyes and Ermin Garcia doing playing alter ego to controversial figures Danding Cojuangco and Sen. Panfilo Lacson? Both newsmen have become media's most wanted when it comes to getting through to the two presidential contenders

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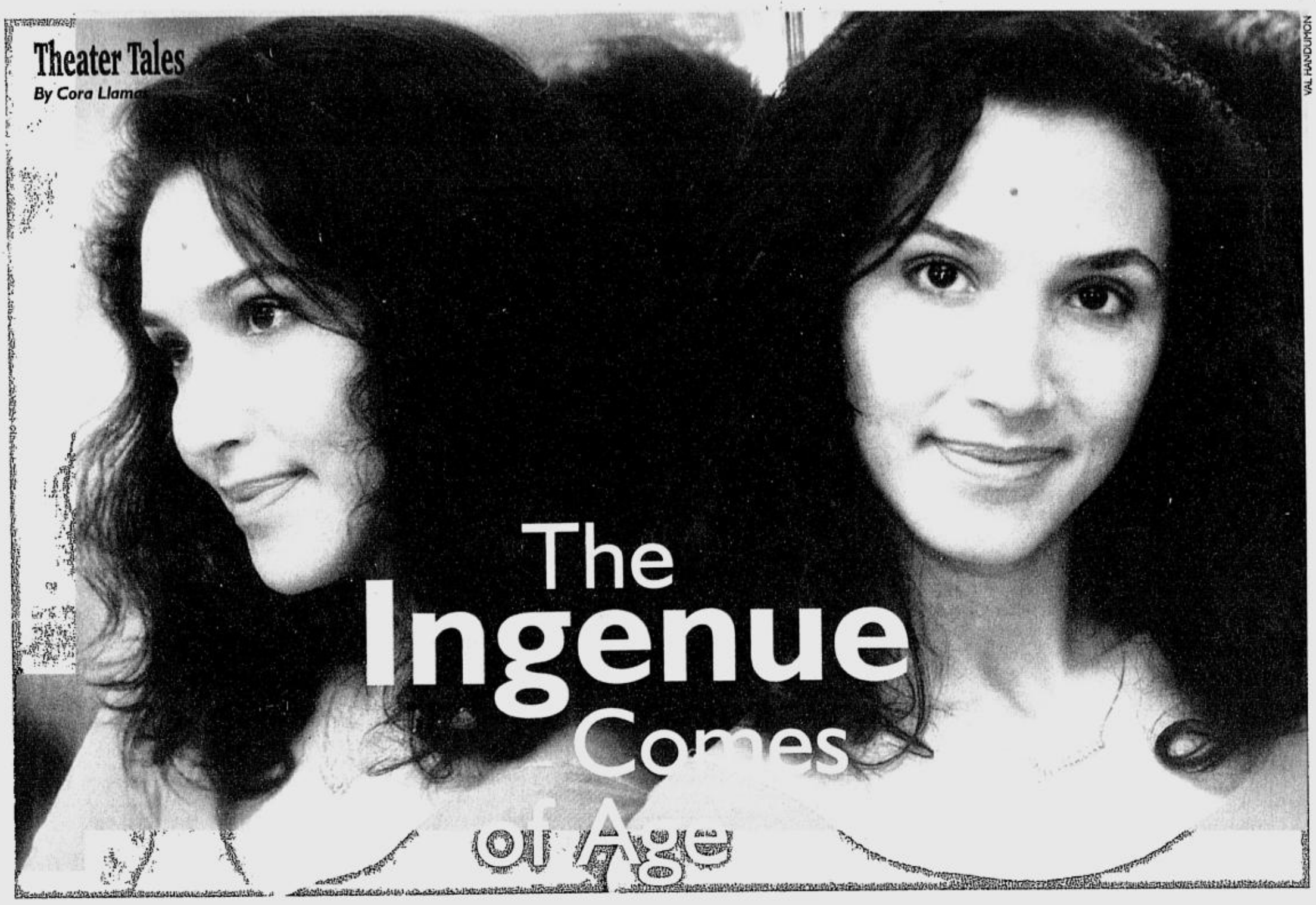
Theater Tales

By Cora Llamas



VAL HANDUMON

The Ingenue Comes of Age

As she marks her 25th year in the business and takes on yet another meaty role, theater's favorite leading lady Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo is also playing mentor to a new generation of talents

PATRON saint. It's title that her close friends, theater pillars all, call her teasingly. And it is with a certain mixture of amusement and pride that Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, once known as the theater ingénue, wears it.

"Blame it on Audie Gemora!" she grins, referring to the Trumpets Artistic Director who alternately cajoled and sweet-talked her into conducting one musical theater course one summer at the Alabang Playshop several years ago.

She "almost collapsed" at first sight of her first class of 30 students. While Menchu has taught and facilitated in a couple of classes since, she has gathered an enthusiastic group of informal students who ask her for acting advice and training. Some of these ladies are rising stars in the industry, like Chini Nepomuceno, Jenny Nuyda, and Anna-lyn Bantug. Some, like Sheila Francisco and Chari Arespacochaga, are respected veterans. Karylle Tatlonghari, daughter of diva Zsa Zsa Padilla, hired her as acting coach for her princess part in "The Little Mermaid."

This very private artist prefers "one-on-one encounters, dealing with each student. I don't see myself as a teacher, but I do encourage them and I want them to succeed."

To Menchu, it's a way of paying forward. About 25 years ago, "I started out as a young and confused actress. I didn't know how to act. Director Freddie Santos, who was the assistant director of Repertory Philippines' Bibot Amador, taught me everything he knew. He would coach me and I've remained close to him."

Not surprisingly, Menchu, who blossomed into the craft in her high school to college years, reserves her highest praise for Rep founders Amador and Baby Barredo. "They were my second parents. They saw the potential in me that I never wanted—I was afraid of the limelight. After a chorus role in 'South Pacific,' they put me as the lead Maria in 'West Side Story.' If they didn't shove me into that, I don't know where I'd be now."

Broadway-style theater was just beginning to find its niche in Metro Manila. Pioneering meant a lot of hard work and discipline. "We had no alternates and lapel mikes," Menchu recalls. "Bibot never allowed marking. We always had to deliver performance levels during rehearsals. She was also strict about making it on time. Coming from Sta. Isabel where I took up high school all the way to Makati, if it were traffic, I'd get down from the car and run straight to rehearsals in the Insular Life Building. Bibot would be waiting for you outside the elevator. Now, that was a scary sight!"

Over the years, she would interact with other directors, as former actors Bart Guingona, Jaime del Mundo, and Audie Gemora started putting up their own theater companies. This month, she appears opposite Gemora under Guingona's direction in "The Last Five Years," Actors Actors Inc.'s (AAI) musical portrayal of a disintegration of a marriage.

If the Rep founders are her parents, the younger generation of directors and artists are her more rambunctious siblings. "It's an equal thing. All of us are on the same level, so it's really a collaboration. Bart will ask Audie and myself what we think, we can disagree, it's always a discussion."

In this production, Menchu plays against type as Cathy, a very lonely, insecure girl—and a bad actress at that—whose husband (Gemora) leaves her when she can't keep up with his success as a writer.

Cathy is certainly a far cry from sweet, wide-eyed Liesl ("The Sound of Music"), romantic Maria ("West Side Story"), and the other "tweetums" roles she started out with. But then again, so is the evil White Witch in "The Little Mermaid" and the manipulative, love-her-at-your-risk title character in "The Kiss of the Spider Woman."

"Five Years" intrigued her because of its non-linear structure. She is in the same scene with Gemora only once—at their wedding. "It's a 'he said, she said' thing. My songs go backward and start telling my story from the day he leaves me to the time that we first meet. Audie tells his day forward, from our first meeting to our breakup. You have two opposing emotions but we are not in the same time frame. Each song should tell the audience what we're going through at these points in our lives in a span of five years. There's no other dialogue."

Even now, the consummate actress smiles wryly at people's feedback that she just breezes through a role. "I have to work at each one. For preparation, I usually go back to voice classes. 'Spiderwoman's challenge was in sustaining all that dancing and staying up on the web. I'd spend four hours a day on the set—on that web—everyday, prior to rehearsals, getting the hang of it, learning how to go up and down without breaking my neck."

Challenge. It's the only reason these days that Menchu will bite into a role. Every minute spent on it has to count because she has limited herself to doing just one production a year. Family—husband Sel Yulo and kids Nicole, 14, and Louie, 11—has always come first. Menchu met her husband while she was trying out lounge music singing after college. "He produced a Valentine concert where I per-

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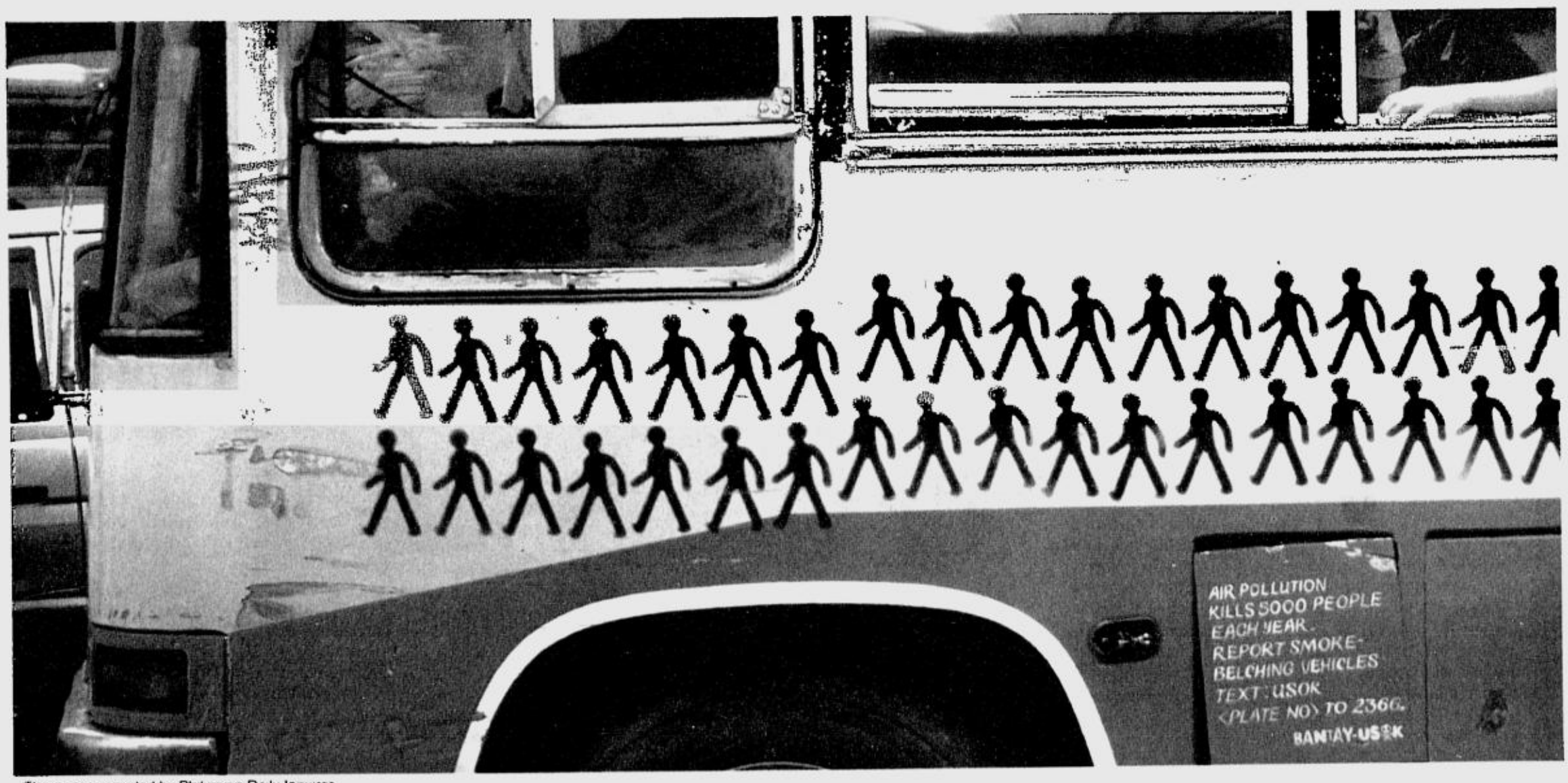


This space provided by Philippine Daily Inquirer

Rod

...from page 1

people at San Miguel, they don't want Danding to go. Nobody is perfect *naman*, and what's important is the message that we who handle him in the media give to the public. What matters most is the issue that concerns most Filipinos today, and that's poverty. Cojuangco's got this track record in managing business, so he can also manage the economy. What people are looking for in the next administration are results: Will life get better? Will I find a job?"

It will be a tough sell, Reyes admits, but he's undaunted, and tackles head-on Cojuangco's association with former Presidents Marcos and Estrada. "Well, every President has a crony, but I think the other qualities of the man will offset those negative perceptions."

And it is here where Reyes' background in television comes in handy. The former ABS-CBN Senior VP and GM-EVP of GMA-7 says he has been coaching Cojuangco on the do's and don'ts of appearing on television. Being a most intimate medium, people can see on the TV screen whether one is sincere or not, says Reyes.

It didn't hurt that Reyes had been Press Secretary to two previous Presidents: Ramos from 1992 to 1993 and Estrada from 1998 to 2000. And the man's sterling reputation and credibility as an enterprising journalist certainly helps.

Reyes first gained public attention in 1961, when he posed as a drug addict to penetrate an opium den in Malabon. A week before going undercover, the 25-year-old reporter had a bout with malaria while covering a plane crash on Mount Halcon, Mindoro. Pale and emaciated, he easily passed for a junkie.

He recalls how a pusher and addict came to see his publisher, Chino Roces, to sell his life story to the pre-martial law Manila Times in exchange for rehabilitation in a hospital. The man, Jesus "Mike" Olavidez, 48, was later clubbed and stabbed to death in a quarrel with neighbors in Quiapo. While Olavidez taught him the ways and language of the dope underworld, Reyes also had "street-smart" written all over him.

Having been raised in Tondo at a time when Asiong Salonga and Totoy Golem were the neighborhood toughies, he knew the psychology of hoodlums. "I felt confident that I would come out safe," Reyes recounts. "I was confident that if they discovered I was a reporter doing an undercover story, I would be able to talk my way out of the situation. After all, the story had not yet been written. Of course the possibility existed that if I were unmasked, they would just dump my body into the Malabon river!"

His three-day stay in the den resulted in a police raid and two movies: "Dope Addict" by Sampaguita Pictures in 1961 (which starred Susan Roces and Juancho Gutierrez) and the 1977 remake, "*Sa Piling ng mga Sugapa,*" starring Bembol Roco, Mat Ranillo and Chanda Romero.

Death threats followed, but so did the awards and acclaim. He was named one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men in 1965 for enterprising investigative journalism. It was the start of an illustrious career in media. Reyes pursued enterprise stories and investigative reports on prison riots, juvenile delinquency, the Berlin Wall when it was put up in 1962 and strategic hamlets in Vietnam shortly before the US started sending troops. He also bagged an exclusive interview with former bombshell Merle Fernandez, who had gone into hiding as the principal suspect in the shooting death of a former La Salle basketball star.

Reyes had an early start in journalism as sports editor of the school paper at Torres High School in Gagalangin, Tondo. At 14, he was already working as proofreader in a printing press in Blumentritt. Right after high school, he applied, and got accepted, at the Manila Times on the recommendation of Sammy Rodriguez, a man who used to stay at their house and worked at the Herald. "He later turned out to be the treasurer of the Communist Party of the Philippines. He died in prison," recalls Reyes.

Paid P2 a day as a cub reporter at the Times, Reyes, the eldest of five siblings, was determined to make it. "My father was a government employee, a geodetic engineer who was so straight that when he died, the only lot he owned was a plot at Loyola Memorial Park which he paid for by installment," his son recounts.

As an honor graduate in high school, Reyes got in as a scholar at the University of the Philippines, where he took up AB. "I only had one journalism subject, news writing, which was handled by Dean Armando Malay," he says. He was so tired from his sports coverage that he slept through the class. But Malay, Reyes recalls, still gave him a flat 1 to help him maintain his scholarship.

At 31, after a Harvard-Nieman fellowship, Reyes became the news editor of Manila Times and eventually, editor of the Manila Chronicle. After martial law closed down his paper, he put up Woman's Home Companion magazine from his and his colleagues' pooled separation pay from the Chronicle. Reyes later published a Filipino Playboy-type magazine for men called Ginoo in 1975, featuring the likes of Gloria Diaz, Daria Ramirez, Lotis Key, Pilar Pilapil, Susan Henson and Laura Danao in daring poses and scanty attire, along with articles from the Harvard Business Review.

He went on to publish TV Times, Celebrity Magazine and The Manila Standard. Shortly after he left the press secretary's post, Estrada appointed him to the top post of Manila's Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei.

Reyes isn't particularly proud of his stint in government media during the second half of the Marcos years, when he joined the National Media Production Center in 1977. He was network manager of the Maharlika Brodcasting System when Senator Aquino was shot at the airport in 1983.

But working in government, he says now, is an experience every newsman should have. "You really get to know the problems that government officials have to contend with in terms of political pressures. I've heard outright confessions about how difficult it is to have political debts from top officials, even from a President I've worked with," says Reyes.

The newsman had his own political debt that led to his support for Estrada. "He has a compassionate nature," he says of the action star-turned-president. "He helped a nephew of mine get rehabilitated." Reyes' brother-in-law, Melo Santiago, introduced him to Estrada. "He wasn't brilliant, but I thought at that time that he has experience somehow—as mayor, senator, Vice President. He had never been charged in any corruption case, he could be street smart and I thought we could help him. He had a good official cabinet. But his friendships with some people became his downfall. His spokesman Jerry Barican and I had a good working relationship but we felt marginalized by his Midnight Cabinet. Other shady characters started getting into his inner media circle."

He's been burned enough to know he no longer wants the job, says Reyes. Even if Cojuangco wins the top post, Reyes says he'd rather be a private citizen, enjoying life with wife Vina and their six grandchildren. "I've had enough of the pressures, the tension and the intrigues," he says, recalling his two bypasses under two administrations and an angioplasty in between. "Malacañang is a real snake pit, a bastion of backstabbing. And that's usual in the corridors of power. I know, I've been there."

EVEN without the question being asked, former Sunday Punch and Manila Times publisher Ermin Garcia launches into a spirited treatise on why he has accepted the job of media consultant to oft-vilified Sen. Panfilo (Ping) Lacson who, this early, has thrown his hat into the presidential ring. Despite the lawmaker's reputation, Garcia apparently believes in the man.

"I'm not an image maker," the newsman qualifies. "I'm just here to help Ping understand how the media works. He does not understand that when media turns critical, something has to be explained."

Although Lacson has of late been on the offensive with his explosive revelations about First Gentleman Mike Arroyo's alleged money-laundering schemes, Garcia remembers how his principal used to keep mum in the face of media attacks.

"He had a bad experience with *kotong* (corrupt) journalists when he was posted with the police force in the provinces," says Garcia. "As a professional, his position was: 'I've done no wrong, my conscience is clear, I will be vindicated later.' He did not anticipate that he would be in politics."

Keeping one's mouth shut, maintains this Dagupan, Pangasinan native, does not pay in media. "It is so easy for media to demonize someone they don't know. So now (Lacson and I) have an agreement. I don't brief him on what to say but he has agreed to sit down with the media and answer all their questions. I tried it out with him, asking the usual questions that media would, and he acquitted himself very well."

Not content with that, Garcia has prepared a point-by-point rebuttal of all the charges hurled at Lacson, a hefty document titled "The lies. The facts. The truth. About Ping Lacson," that tackles what the 55-year-old newsman considers the "ten most talked about issues raised and rumored about (the senator)." Prepared over a four-month period, the document tackles, among other accusations, the alleged rub-out of the Kuratong Baleleng Gang, the senator's reported involvement in narco-politics, kidnap for ransom activities, drug trafficking, and the deaths of police officer John Campos, PR practitioner Bubby Dacer and that of his wife's first husband, plus the allegation that the former PNP director-general is gay.

"I feel I have a scoop here," says Garcia. "I'm working with the most controversial person and I know his story." Not that he takes the senator's word for it, he adds. "He has letters and supporting documents. Listening to him, I thought I was with the wrong person given what I've read about him. I looked out for the details because those would trip him, but he has been very consistent. Well, either he's a very good actor, or he is really what he says he is."

The senator, he cites, is so against the pork barrel that he himself hauled two of his staff to the Ombudsman when he found out that they had dipped their fingers into the forbidden funds.

Says Garcia, "I consider myself an idealist, but Ping is worse—he reduces everything to what is right and what is wrong, regardless of who gets hurt or compromised."

As Manila Times publisher from 1998 to '99, Garcia first encountered the senator when the kidnap-for-ransom cases were on the rise. "Stories were coming out that he had a very high success rate in rescue operations because he himself was involved." To check that out, Garcia proposed that a photojournalist be allowed to join a rescue operation and document it. "I was expecting Ping to hedge but he said, 'Yes, sure,' immediately. That struck me a bit. But he asked one favor. He said, 'Please understand that my first concern is the safety of the victim. If anything should happen to the kidnappers, if they get shot or killed in the process, *wag sanang palabasin na* salvage. (Don't make it appear like it was a summary execution).' He was apparently still stung by accusations in the Kuratong Baleleng case."

Of that November 1998 rescue, former Times photographer Lyn Rillon recalls, "The kidnap victim was a nine-year-old boy from Lipa City, Batangas. The night before, I was briefed by our publisher, Ermin Garcia. Then I was introduced to three members of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) whom I would be traveling with that night. The two men and the woman were in their late 20s or early 30s.

"I was more excited than afraid. I thought the surveillance alone might stretch for days before they could nail the suspects. But they got the kid after only two days. They seem to know what they were doing because there were no mishaps. No one was killed and the suspects, who were juvenile delinquents, were apprehended quickly enough. They worked well as a team. But Lacson didn't come with us. Still, from what I gathered from the PAOCTF members I was with, he inspired loyalty and admiration."

Says Garcia, "That rescue was my first window to Ping and he came out clean. I was prepared to give him the benefit of the doubt." The media flagellation he attributes to the profession's natural function of scrutinizing people who make themselves too conspicuous. "First, Ping was making then Vice-President Estrada's Presidential Anti-Crime Commission a star; he was rising too fast, riding on the tails of Erap, and that's when politicians became wary. They were not targeting Ping but Erap. Of course when Ping ran for senator, that's when he became a real political threat."

While he attributes Lacson's bad press to politics, Garcia confesses to some initial reluctance in taking on the job. "Some of my friends were violently against it. My own family asked me to think things over. I got warnings. 'Ermin, keep your distance. You might be the next John Campos."

It's not the money, either. "He hasn't offered me money I haven't earned before," Garcia says cryptically. Neither is it political office. "I certainly have no intention of being part of the Lacson cabinet; government is not my thing." What it all boils down to, he says, is his own personal belief in the man. "I'm 100 percent convinced about the guy, his leadership, his character, his honesty, his trustworthiness."

Adds Garcia, "Personally, I see him as continuing my own crusade which I started in 1968 when I took over my father's paper, the Sunday Punch. He was killed while fighting graft and corruption in Dagupan." The older Garcia was about to publish a story on a corrupt local politician. "The gunman was caught, but only because then President Marcos issued a shoot to kill order after pressure from the media." The gunman, adds Garcia, was pardoned after five years because he was a protégée of a politician very close to Marcos. "Last I heard the guy was even given a job at Customs. But he's dead now."

Before his father died, Garcia had wanted to join the Philippine Military Academy. "I would have been in the same class as the senator," he chuckles. But his father wanted his only son to go into business and so he took up economics at Ateneo while cross-enrolled in journalism at UP. "Rod Reyes even became my professor in news writing," he reveals. Like Reyes, he didn't finish the course and eventually graduated with a degree in behavioral science from the Ateneo.

As part of his crusade against corruption, says Garcia, he ran for mayor in Dagupan in 2001, but lost. "I didn't have the money nor the organization. I think I was an idealistic fool."

"That's why I feel comfortable with the senator," adds this former executive director of the Philippine Press Institute. "I feel that he will fast track things for me. We think along the same wavelength so it's easier, more satisfying working for him."

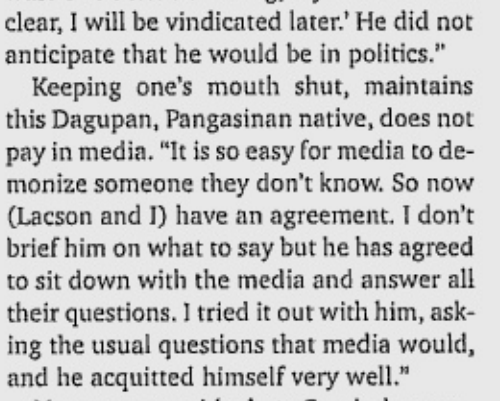
Should Lacson win, Garcia says he will just be feeding him information on corrupt officials. "Actually, when I lost the elections in Dagupan, I tried to establish an NGO to monitor graft and corruption in local governments because nobody's watching them. I felt stymied because I did not have enough resources although I did get some pledges and have made some groundwork. When Ping becomes president, I'd like that to be my contribution, and I'm sure he can give it enough teeth."

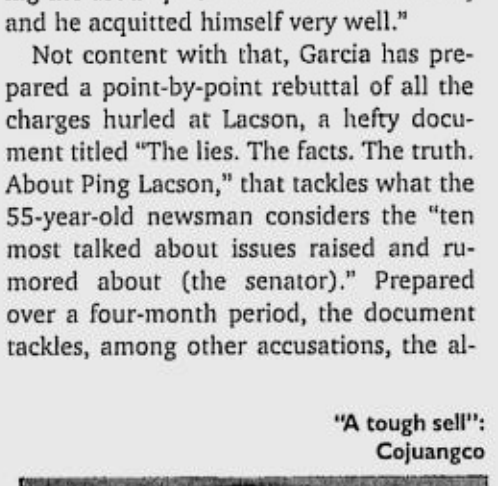
For all his faith in the man, Garcia concedes that Lacson's chances in a one-on-one fight are not too good. "It's better if there are more candidates. If Danding (Cojuangco), (Raul) Roco and (Jun) Magsaysay were to run, Ping will win," he says confidently.

Adds Garcia, "My only misgiving is that this country does not know the real story about him. If they did, all that talk about Ping being a drug lord, a kidnapper, a multi-billionaire would vanish. Right now, we're still trying to clear the air slowly. It's hard work but soon, the public will see a very different Senator Lacson. He's learning fast."

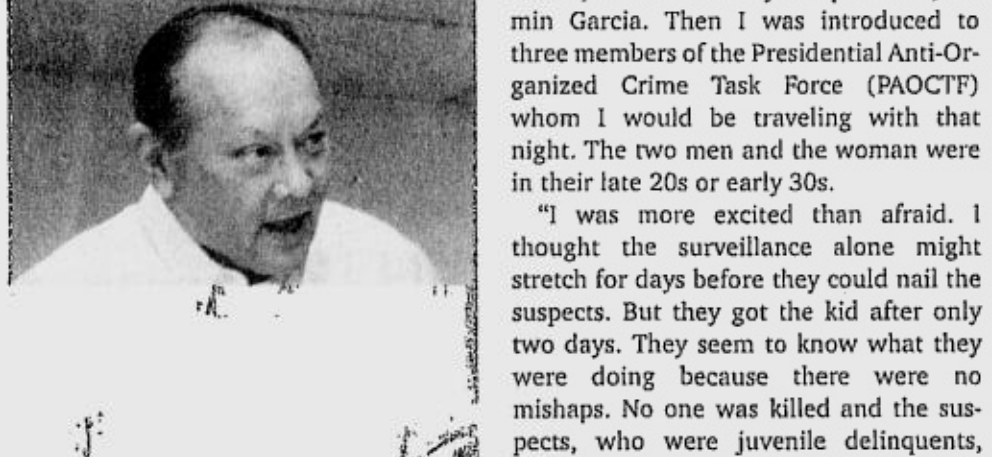
Family first: With wife Vina and grandchildren (clockwise): Nikki, 5, Rodolfo III, 7, Miggy, 5, Alfonso, 3, and Vincent, 2 1/2

"A tough sell": Cojuangco





On the campaign trail: Lacson with supporters



A Muslim wedding is reenacted in the parade

A Whirl of Color With SMART at

Kadayawan sa Dabaw 2003

A Davao lass impresses the crowd at the Indak-indakan

As the SMART Fiesta Season rolls on, one of this year's most eagerly awaited, Davao City's famed Kadayawan lived up to its lively traditions, splashing city streets with color, sound, and dance. It was an organic celebration. SMART subscribers got the best deals at Kadayawan as always at all major Philippine Festivals. SMART was going to show them a whole slew of parties and events.

The much talked about "Indak-indak sa Kadalanan" held August 23 from wee hours till sundown was a nonstop thump of rhythm and movement. A glamorous nightcap was The Freestyle Concert at the Venue.

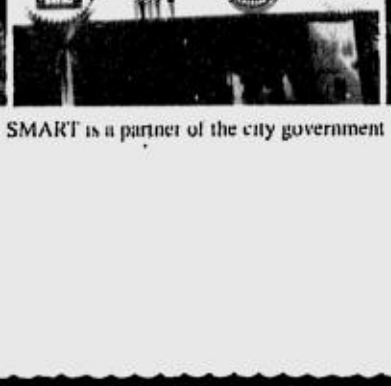
"RED", Octane Bar and Plaza de Luisa's version of the street party was also sponsored by SMART, giving the after-hours crowd a place to sow wild fiesta fervor on the same night. All were eager for the main event the next day August 24, the Floral Float Parade.

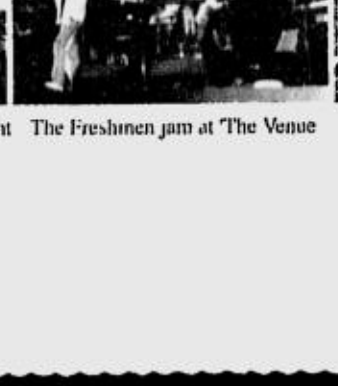
With the newly relaunched SMART Buddy as your travel buddy, you're getting the widest and strongest coverage anywhere on these fiesta islands. The SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM 2 allows you to store up to 500 phone numbers and up to 70 text messages in your inbox while offering password protection as well as other services exclusive to SMART subscribers. Make fiesta plans and hook up with friends right on your SMART Buddy cellphones, on your way to the next SMART Fiesta!

"...splashing city streets with color, sound, and dance...a nonstop thump of rhythm and movement...an organic celebration...with SMART"

Acrobatic moves are made by indak-indakan contestants

SMART was at Matina Times Square and other places in the city


SMART is a partner of the city government



The Freshmen jam at The Venue

Bilao's take an artful form

ADVT.

People of the Faith

By Joy Rojas

Healed by Heaven

BETOY JOHNSON

"Providential" doctor-patient relationship: Dr. Oben and Callueng

Looks like packing her family's personal effects and transferring the brood to a new home has given Fredricka "Louie" Callueng a touch of dust-induced colds and cough. But she has been through worse. In 1992, doctors discovered a tumor between the heart and lungs of this Philippine Airlines line administrator, pilot's wife and mother of two. A tube, in fact, needed to be inserted on her side to drain the blood that was flooding her collapsed lungs.

On the eve of her operation at the Makati Medical Center, Louie received a curious gift—a picture and relic of Mother Ma. Cristina Brando, Foundress of the Congregation of the Oblation Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.

"Pray to her," instructed Mother Loredana, Superior of the congregation who was introduced to Louie by a common friend. "She needs a miracle to be a saint." Louie did as she was told, though she knew nothing of the Italian nun and was hardly what you would consider religious. "I think it was the way I prayed from the heart," she recalls. "At the time, my children were only 4 and 7, so I was desperate to live! I was confident that Ma. Cristina would help me."

And what a swift reply. The next day, a bemused Dr. Vicente Oben, thoracic surgeon and Louie's attending physician, informed her that an operation was no longer necessary as the tumor had disappeared. "Immediately, I knew it was Ma. Cristina because I had never prayed for intercession before," says Louie, who underwent three x-rays to confirm the new findings. "When doctors told me the mass had disappeared, I said, 'My God, that's the miracle they had been waiting for!' "

For his part, Dr. Oben (who detected the tumor and fluid in the patient's chest) attributed initial x-ray results to a technical glitch. Nevertheless, Oben, a Marian devotee whose unfailing prayers to Pope John Paul XXIII has granted, to his mind, "a lot of graces," did not take Louie's case lightly. "The moment I stepped into Fredricka's room," he once told the patient, "everything was providential."

Providence then seems the only way to explain Dr. Oben's dramatic treatment of Louie's second tumor, a larger mass that appeared several months later. Though no longer her attending physician, Dr. Oben just happened to be available on the day of her surgery as his previous appointment had been cancelled. Six hours into the operation, the team of specialists headed by cardiologist Dr. Manuel Chuachiako had accomplished little to extricate the tumor. Their efforts only aggravated the patient's uncontrollable bleeding. To make things worse, the operating room's machines started malfunctioning. At one point, Louie's heart was literally in one doctor's hands as he frantically tried to revive it. It was then that Dr. Oben, an observing physician, did what he had never done before: he stepped out of the operating room and prayed for Ma. Cristina's intercession.

Stricken with a rare incurable disease, Louie Callueng found herself cured through the intercession of an Italian nun she hardly knew. The miracle prompted the Vatican to beatify Ma. Cristina Brando last April

And intercede she did. Hit with a flash of inspiration, the thoracic surgeon stunned colleagues and himself when he strode into the room and scooped Louie's large tumor out of her chest with his bare hands. "I said, '*O, madali pala ito* (hey, this is easy)!' " he says with a chuckle. Equally baffling was the patient, who responded favorably to the doctor's unprecedented surgical procedure.

No ordinary tumor, Louie's malaise was diagnosed as Wegener granulomatosis. Only 76 cases of the rare and fatal disease have been reported worldwide; Louie's case is the first known in the Philippines. "The doctors who were operating on her kept telling me to close the patient's incision because she just might die on the table," says Dr. Oben with a knowing smile. "But I was so sure that Divine Intercession would not abandon me."

Neither did it abandon Louie who, by 1993 had become very active in her local church's activities and was eager to get her life

To page 7

The Artist Abroad

By Luis H. Francia

Imagination is Funny

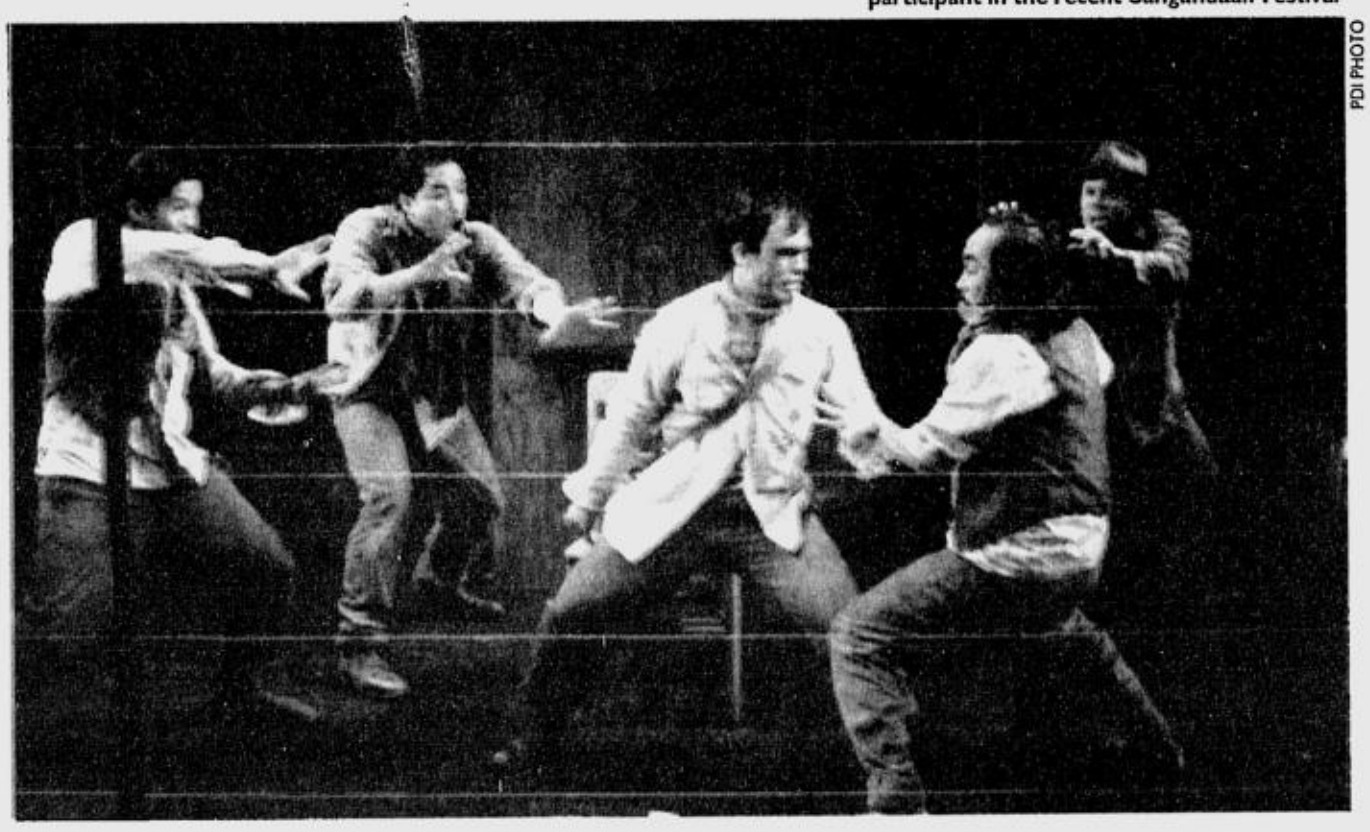
The Filipino-American finds himself or herself in a strange predicament: not quite American, say, in Boston, or Filipino enough in Manila

Last month's hugely successful Sangandaan 2003 Conference presented a wealth of scholarly views on a century of Philippine-American relations, specifically in the arts and media—that complex entanglement that continues to provoke debate and incessant soul-searching on both sides of the Pacific.

Co-sponsored by the University of the Philippines, the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the Filipino-American National Historical Society and a few local and American universities, and conceived by Nicanor Tiongson of UP and Helen Toribio of San Francisco State University, Sangandaan offered a dizzying array of panels and conference-related events, including a rock concert, art exhibitions, plays, and a dance performance, Ballet Philippines' "Darna." It was, of course, impossible to attend all the panels, many of which I was sorry to have missed.

The only sour note was the arbitrary manner in which one event, the July 19th literary concert at De La Salle University, was put together. I was supposed to be one of the original planners, the concert intended to celebrate both Philippine and Filipino-American literatures by devoting equal segments of time to each. However, upon arrival from New York, I discovered that the Filipino-American half was at odds with what I and a couple of other Filipino-American writers had earlier proposed. Instead, I was faced with a program that possessed all the vitality of a dry, academic treatise, the sort of event meant to educate high school seniors but invariably bores them to tears.

Writers were part of the event but, in truth, none of them, whether from here or across the Pacific, were to read from their own works. I myself was to read Mark Twain. Twain is one of my heroes (though I don't think of him as belonging to Filipino-American literature, does anyone?), but I wasn't to read anything I had written. Why have me simply do that, when there were much better readers available (say, stage actors), and at a concert meant in part to celebrate the literary works of Filipino-American authors, of whose ranks I am part? Curiouser and curiouser.



PDI PHOTO

A scene from the Ma-Yi Theater Company's " The Romance of Magno Rubio," a participant in the recent Sangandaan Festival

There was to be no alteration, however, as the entire program had been conceived of by a deity at the De La Salle English department. So the changes I proposed to this fait accompli were brushed aside, as though I had had the gall to revise a papal bull. How dare we Filipino-American writers presume to know our field! That, in essence, was the implied absurdity, as absurd as asking why the literati here should be considered the best judges of contemporary Philippine letters. But the attitude, alas, was resolutely, humorlessly, it's God's way or the highway. To the highway then!

At Sangandaan itself, exchanges were much friendlier, more engaging, and provocative in ways that generated insight rather than heat. It turned out that a major issue Philippine critics here have with Filipino-American works centers around the (mis)representation of the country. The charges are familiar, and serious, enough: exoticization, nostalgia, sentimentality. It might be that, as with the Brits and the Yanks, a common language separates Filipinos from Filipino-Americans—in my view, a gap overall for the good, as it provides fertile ground for unearthing additional layers of meaning. There are after all as many texts as there are readers—a postmodern tenet meant to move us away from absolutist readings that, for instance, result in literal interpretations of the Bible, e.g., if all of creation was made in seven days, why even consider evolution?

While there are enough examples to back up the notion that the Philippines written about by Filipino-Americans doesn't exist, I would argue that—and I am still exploring the labyrinthine paths of this idea—such a critique is irrelevant. Imagining the Philippines comes more out of the impulse to carve a third space, a refuge and sanctuary, than from anything else. What the otherwise perceptive musings here on Filipino-American literature often lack—or at least those musings on display at Sangandaan—is a discussion of racism and of subsequent dislocation and alienation. Any writer of color, or for that matter, any person of color, whether Filipino-American or not, can tell you about the insidious forms that bigotry takes in the imperial realm.

The Filipino-American finds himself or herself in a strange predicament: not quite American, say, in Boston, or Filipino enough in Manila. Where then does he/she belong? Borders are said to be disappearing, and yet I find that certain borders retain their preeminence—not the least of which is the proprietary attitude towards the Philippines as a concept. Who exactly does it belong to? Not at home in either geographic space, the Filipino in the diaspora—and I don't just mean writers—constructs a metaphorical home, with physical space the least problematic aspect. The reader and critic may quarrel legitimately with a writer's characterization, narrative flow, language, etc.—all hallmarks of the literary craft—but not on the grounds that the work has to be viewed as a documentary and historical portrait.

Ko Won, a Korean poet, writes: To us already, /a birthplace is no longer home. / The place we were brought up is not either. / Our history, rushing to us/ through fields and hills, is our home. Or, as the Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish noted, and I paraphrase here, the country of the nomad, the hyphenated citizen, the exile, lies in words. A Philippines exists, like Oscar Hijuelos's Cuba or Salman Rushdie's India, that stands apart from its real-world doppelganger. As for the still widely held fear of being misunderstood by the outside world (read the West) due to these funny imaginings, I think it is time to slay this particular *bete noire*.

Art

"Recent Nudes & Abstracts," Emma Navarro's latest exhibit at the Westin Philippine Plaza. The exhibit features ten of the artist's abstract and nude paintings in acrylic and water color. Viewing date is until August 31. For inquiries, call Hilda at 687-7425 or 373-3365.

"Erbe of Toscana" by Antonio Luz

"Serie Toscana," an exhibit by Antonio Luz is on view at Il Ponticello Restaurant and Bar. The exhibit celebrates Tuscan culture and cuisine. Viewing date is until November 11. Il Ponticello Restaurant and Bar is located at the 2nd flr of Antel 2000 Building, 121 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati.

"Choke," Mariano Ching's sixth one-man exhibit will run until September 7 at the Finale Art Gallery. The exhibit refers to an overload of juxtaposed images and symbols which originate from senseless doodles, appropriated magazine images and from images with symbolic meanings. Ching's aim is to bombard the viewer with a variety of images. For inquiries, call the gallery at 634-2411.

Music

The 2003 Philippine International Choral Festival will be held on September 1 to 7 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and in the cultural heritage sites in Laguna. Chorus Sine Nomine (Austria), Earth Choir (Taiwan), Hamrahlid Choir (Iceland) and the Pilgrim Mission Choir (Korea) are the foreign participating choirs. UST Singers, San Beda College Chorale and the University of San Agustin Troubadors, Himig Sanghaya Chorale of Laguna and the Philippine Madrigal Singers represent the local choirs. For ticket inquiries, contact the CCP Marketing department at 551-7930/832-3878/832-1125 local 1803 to 1806.

YO! Youths in the House!, a benefit concert that aims to keep street children safe from drug abuse and trafficking will be held on September 4 at Ratsky Tomas Morato. South Border, Hans and Reagan and various artists will join the event. For inquiries, contact Psyche Roxas at 0920-2303973 and Dino Subingsubing at 0919-5951421 or email boadicea@nsclub.net.

Onstage

Dulaang Unibersidad ng Pilipinas will stage on its 28th theater season a Federico Garcia Lorca play entitled **"The Butterfly's Evil Spell."** Directed by Jose Estrella, this short poetic fantasy portrays the thwarted idealism of a humble beetle which unexpectedly encounters a wounded butterfly and is given a sudden vision about how it is to live in another world. The play with both English and Filipino versions will run from September 10 to 26 at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, 2/F Palma Hall, UP Diliman, Quezon City. For inquiries and ticket reservations, visit the Dulaang UP at Room 136 Palma Hall, UP Diliman or contact the Dulaang UP Office at 924-3224/926-1349/920-5301 loc. 6441 or email the-butterflyevilspell@yahoo.com.

By Jess Abrera

Padala

Danseurs of Vella C. Damian School of Ballet

"Saludo Filipino!," a ballet show with the Filipino choreography of Tony Fabella, Eric Cruz, Jojo Lucila, Ianne Damian and Steve Villaruz will be performed by the Vella C. Damian School of Ballet on September 7, 4 p.m. at Francisco Santiago Hall, Mezzanine, Equitable PCI Bank, Tower 1, Makati Ave., corner H. V. dela Costa St., Makati. For inquiries, call the MCO Foundation at 818-1403 or 840-7000 local 2630 or 2258.

"Ambon, Ulan, Baha," an environmental neo-pop rock zarzuela written by Frank G. Rivera will be staged on August 31 at 10 a.m, 1p.m. and 4 p.m. at Aliw Theatre, Star City, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd. For inquiries, call 742-8259.

Food

Makati Shangri-La observes the **Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival** with offerings of traditional Moon Cakes at Shang Place and Take Out boxes from the Moon Cake Booth located at the lobby until September 11. For inquiries and advanced orders, call the hotel's Restaurant Reservations and Information Center at 840-0884/813-8888 extension 7588 or 7599.

Atbp

"Valera Retrospective," a fashion exhibit by couturier Ramon Valera will be on display on September 6 at the National Museum. For inquiries, call the NCCA Secretariat at 527-2192 local 502-504 or 527-5528 and look for Michelle Gonzales or Evette Banzon or visit ncca.gov.ph.

"Pista ng Ating Pasasalamat," a thanksgiving concert by the Our Lady of Pentecost Parish in Loyola Heights, QC and spearheaded by Fr. Manoling Francisco will feature Nolyn Cabahug, Jet Pangan and May Bayot on September 6 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Irwin Theatre of Ateneo de Manila, Loyola, QC. Tickets are available at the parish office at 12 Dela Rosa corner Salvador Sts., Loyola Heights, QC and at the Ateneo's Jesuit Music Ministry. For inquiries, call 434-2397/426-1023 and 426-6101 local 3425.

Ang I.n.K pays homage to the Dean of Filipino cartoonists, Mang Larry Alcala for their 12th annual exhibit. Titled *"Ala-Alcala,"* the exhibit will be held until September 20 at the Corredor Hall of UP Diliman's College of Fine Arts. For inquiries, visit www.lnk.org.ph.

Sheila Coronel, 2003 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee on Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts will hold a lecture on **"Enriching Democratic Discourse: Investigative Journalism for an Informed Citizenry"** on September 2, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Ramon Magsaysay Center, 1680 Roxas Blvd., Manila. For inquiries, call 521-3166 to 85 local 196 or 139 or email vmercado@rmaf.org.ph.

Lecture on the Negritos of Quezon Province on September 2 will be held at 2 p.m. at the Anthropology Division, Rm 414-A of the National Museum, P. Burgos Ave., Manila. For more information, call the Museum Education Division at 527-0278.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit's House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

Healed ...from page 6

back in order. But her plans were cut short when an emergency trip to the hospital confirmed the presence of a third tumor, this one poised and growing on her left lung. To top it off, the heavy doses of oral chemotherapy and steroids prescribed by her attending physican, Dr. Miguel Camara, were giving her unbearable allergies and other side effects. Louie, who needed no convincing of heaven's healing powers, chose to gradually wean herself from all types of medication. Surgery was an option, "but I didn't want to put her or myself through the agony of a difficult procedure," admits Dr. Oben.

Thankfully he didn't have to. After six months, the tumor mass had shrunk to the point of non-existence. Asked to assess his patient's remarkable recovery, Dr. Oben—who obviously prefers surrendering to God during critical moments—doesn't hesitate to declare, "From what I've known and seen, I think hers was a miracle."

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Love Notes

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When Randy died in a car accident, I felt my world collapse around me. Now I feel alone and lost

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Art

"Recent Nudes & Abstracts," Emma Navarro's latest exhibit at the Westin Philippine Plaza. The exhibit features ten of the artist's abstract and nude paintings in acrylic and water color. Viewing date is until August 31. For inquiries, call Hilda at 687-7425 or 373-3365.

"Serie Toscana," an exhibit by Antonio Luz is on view at Il Ponticello Restaurant and Bar. The exhibit celebrates Tuscan culture and cuisine. Viewing date is until November 11. Il Ponticello Restaurant and Bar is located at the 2nd flr of Antel 2000 Building, 121 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati.

"Erbe of Toscana" by Antonio Luz

"Choke," Mariano Ching's sixth one-man exhibit will run until September 7 at the Finale Art Gallery. The exhibit refers to an overload of juxtaposed images and symbols which originate from senseless doodles, appropriated magazine images and from images with symbolic meanings. Ching's aim is to bombard the viewer with a variety of images. For inquiries, call the gallery at 634-2411.

Music

The 2003 Philippine International Choral Festival will be held on September 1 to 7 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and in the cultural heritage sites in Laguna. Chorus Sine Nomine (Austria), Earth Choir (Taiwan), Hamrahlid Choir (Iceland) and the Pilgrim Mission Choir (Korea) are the foreign participating choirs. UST Singers, San Beda College Chorale and the University of San Agustin Troubadors, Himig Sanghaya Chorale of Laguna and the Philippine Madrigal Singers represent the local choirs. For ticket inquiries, contact the CCP Marketing department at 551-7930/832-3878/832-1125 local 1803 to 1806.

YO! Youths in the House!, a benefit concert that aims to keep street children safe from drug abuse and trafficking will be held on September 4 at Ratsky Tomas Morato. South Border, Hans and Reagan and various artists will join the event. For inquiries, contact Psyche Roxas at 0920-2303973 and Dino Subingsubing at 0919-5951421 or email boadicea@nsclub.net.

Onstage

Dulaang Unibersidad ng Pilipinas will stage on its 28th theater season a Federico Garcia Lorca play entitled **"The Butterfly's Evil Spell."** Directed by Jose Estrella, this short poetic fantasy portrays the thwarted idealism of a humble beetle which unexpectedly encounters a wounded butterfly and is given a sudden vision about how it is to live in another world. The play with both English and Filipino versions will run from September 10 to 26 at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, 2/F Palma Hall, UP Diliman, Quezon City. For inquiries and ticket reservations, visit the Dulaang UP at Room 136 Palma Hall, UP Diliman or contact the Dulaang UP Office at 924-3224/926-1349/920-5301 loc. 6441 or email thebutterflyevilspell@yahoo.com.

Healed ...from page 6

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For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

By Jess Abrera

Padala

Danseurs of Vella C. Damian School of Ballet

"Saludo Filipino!," a ballet show with the Filipino choreography of Tony Fabella, Eric Cruz, Jojo Lucila, Ianne Damian and Steve Villaruz will be performed by the Vella C. Damian School of Ballet on September 7, 4 p.m. at Francisco Santiago Hall, Mezzanine, Equitable PCI Bank, Tower 1, Makati Ave., corner H. V. dela Costa St., Makati. For inquiries, call the MCO Foundation at 818-1403 or 840-7000 local 2630 or 2258.

"Ambon, Ulan, Baha," an environmental neo-pop rock zarzuela written by Frank G. Rivera will be staged on August 31 at 10 a.m, 1p.m. and 4 p.m. at Aliw Theatre, Star City, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd. For inquiries, call 742-8259.

Food

Makati Shangri-La observes the **Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival** with offerings of traditional Moon Cakes at Shang Place and Take Out boxes from the Moon Cake Booth located at the lobby until September 11. For inquiries and advanced orders, call the hotel's Restaurant Reservations and Information Center at 840-0884/813-8888 extension 7588 or 7599.

Atbp

"Valera Retrospective," a fashion exhibit by couturier Ramon Valera will be on display on September 6 at the National Museum. For inquiries, call the NCCA Secretariat at 527-2192 local 502-504 or 527-5528 and look for Michelle Gonzales or Evette Banzon or visit ncca.gov.ph.

"Pista ng Ating Pasasalamat," a thanksgiving concert by the Our Lady of Pentecost Parish in Loyola Heights, QC and spearheaded by Fr. Manoling Francisco will feature Nolyn Cabahug, Jet Pangan and May Bayot on September 6 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Irwin Theatre of Ateneo de Manila, Loyola, QC. Tickets are available at the parish office at 12 Dela Rosa corner Salvador Sts., Loyola Heights, QC and at the Ateneo's Jesuit Music Ministry. For inquiries, call 434-2397/426-1023 and 426-6101 local 3425.

Ang I.n.K pays homage to the Dean of Filipino cartoonists, Mang Larry Alcala for their 12th annual exhibit. Titled *"Ala-Alcala,"* the exhibit will be held until September 20 at the Corredor Hall of UP Diliman's College of Fine Arts. For inquiries, visit www.ink.org.ph.

Sheila Coronel, 2003 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee on Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts will hold a lecture on **"Enriching Democratic Discourse: Investigative Journalism for an Informed Citizenry"** on September 2, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Ramon Magsaysay Center, 1680 Roxas Blvd., Manila. For inquiries, call 521-3166 to 85 local 196 or 139 or email vmercado@rmaf.org.ph.

Lecture on the Negritos of Quezon Province on September 2 will be held at 2 p.m. at the Anthropology Division, Rm 414-A of the National Museum, P. Burgos Ave., Manila. For more information, call the Museum Education Division at 527-0278.

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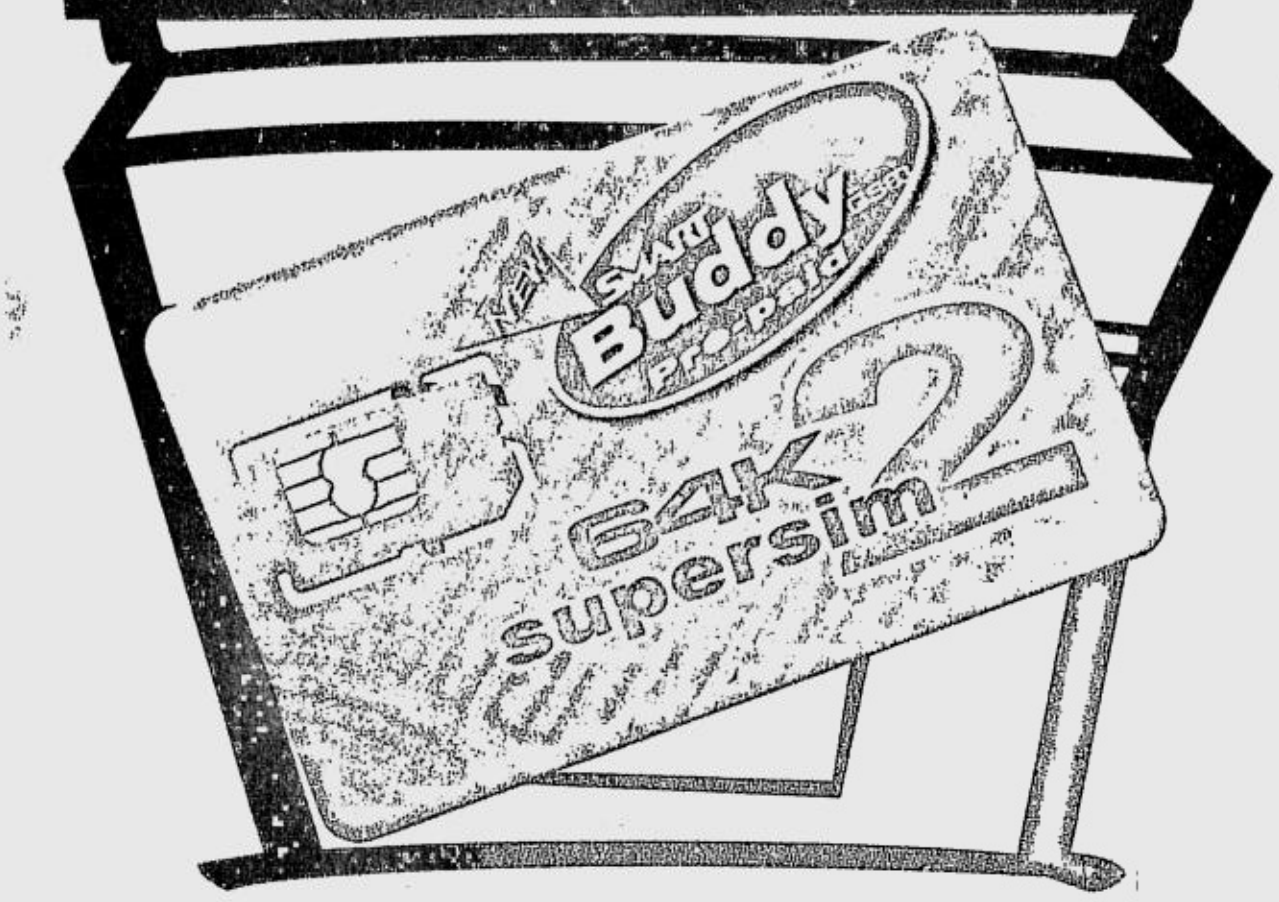

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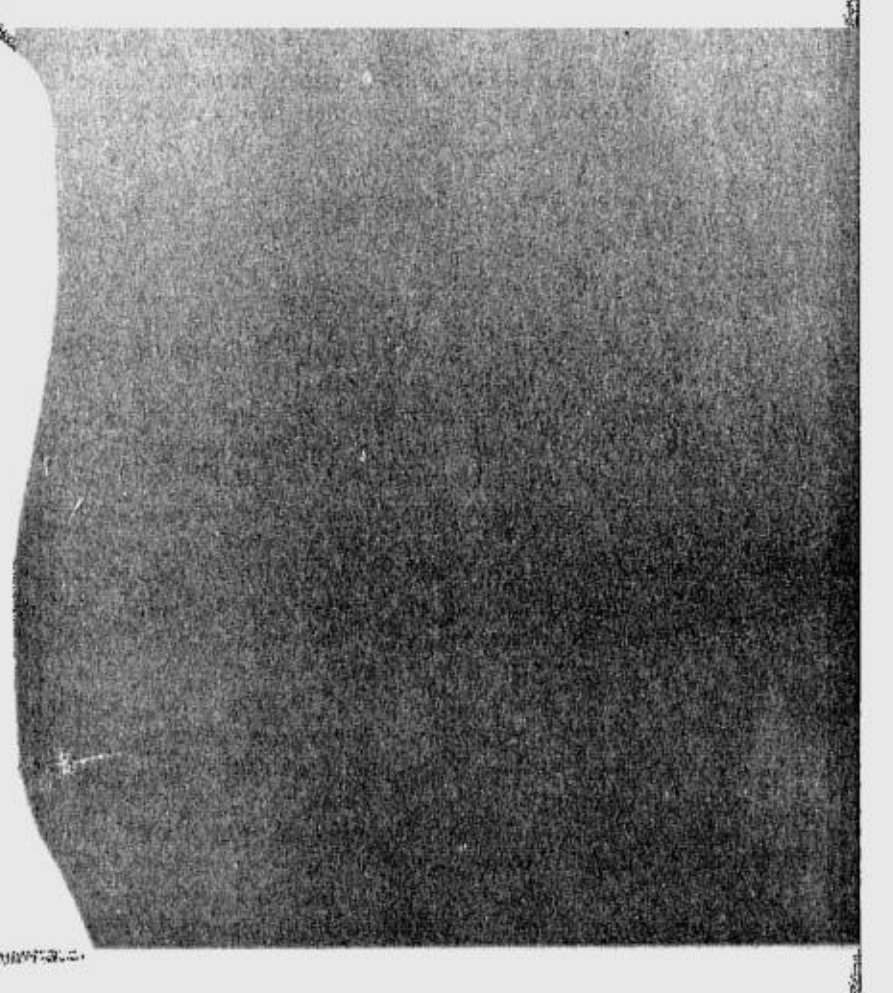

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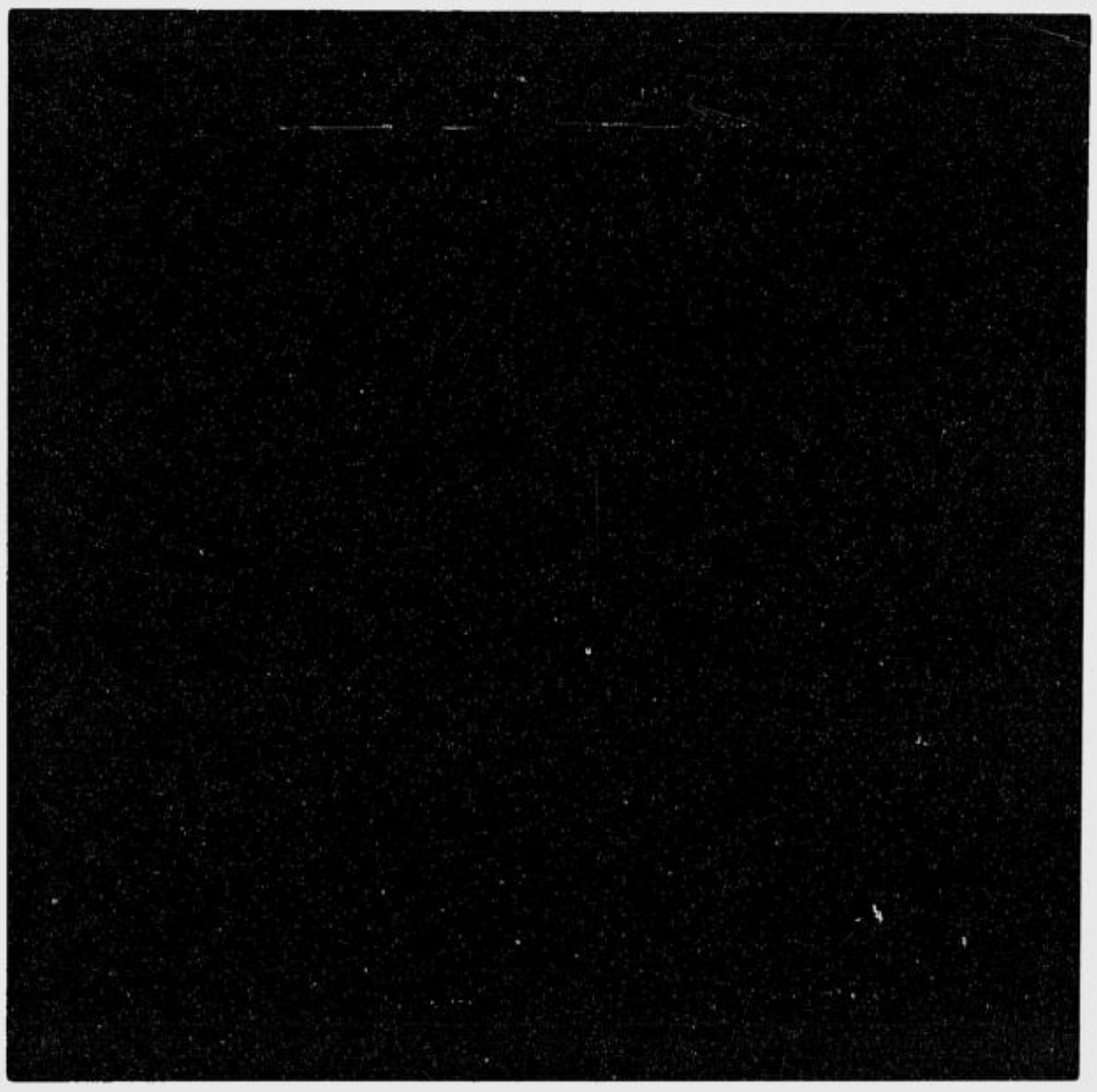

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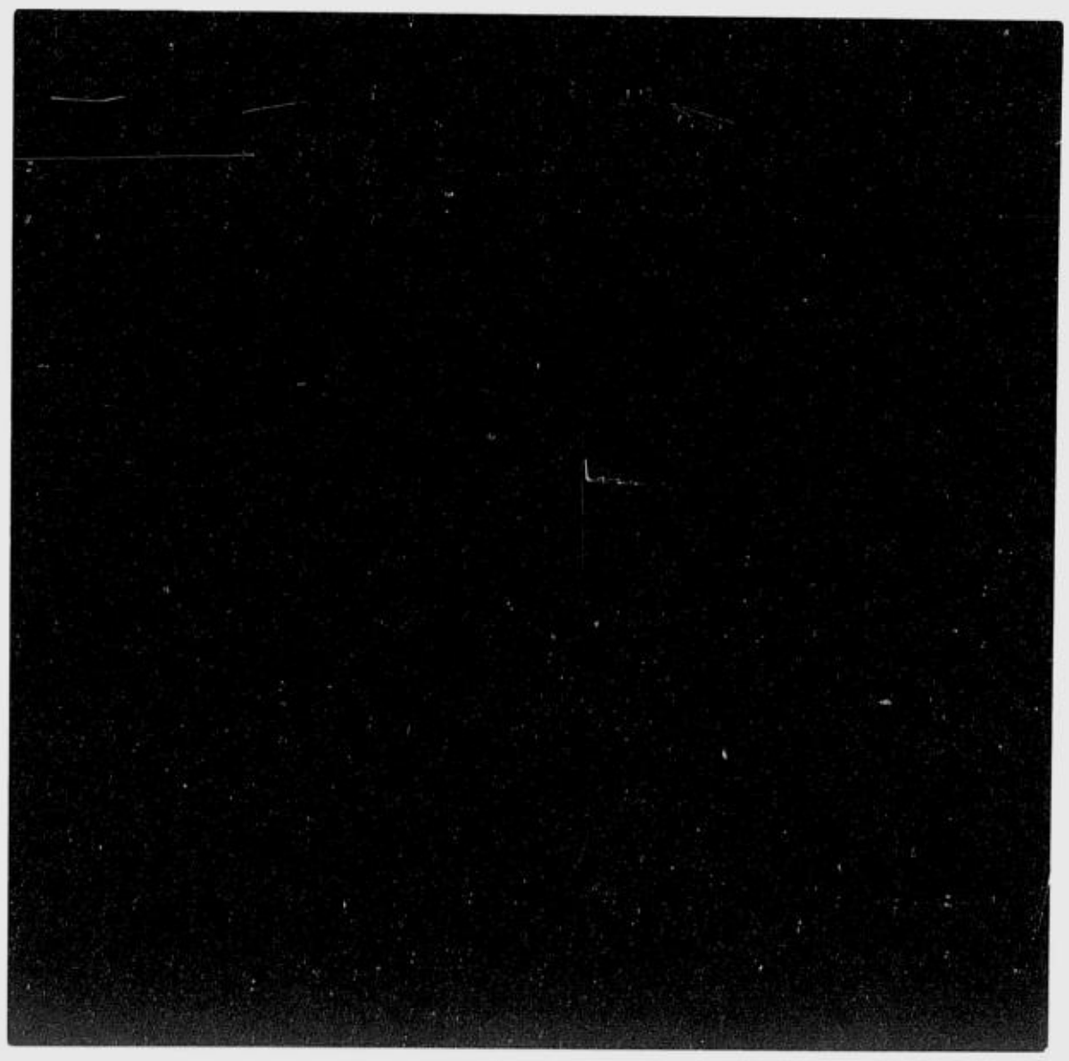

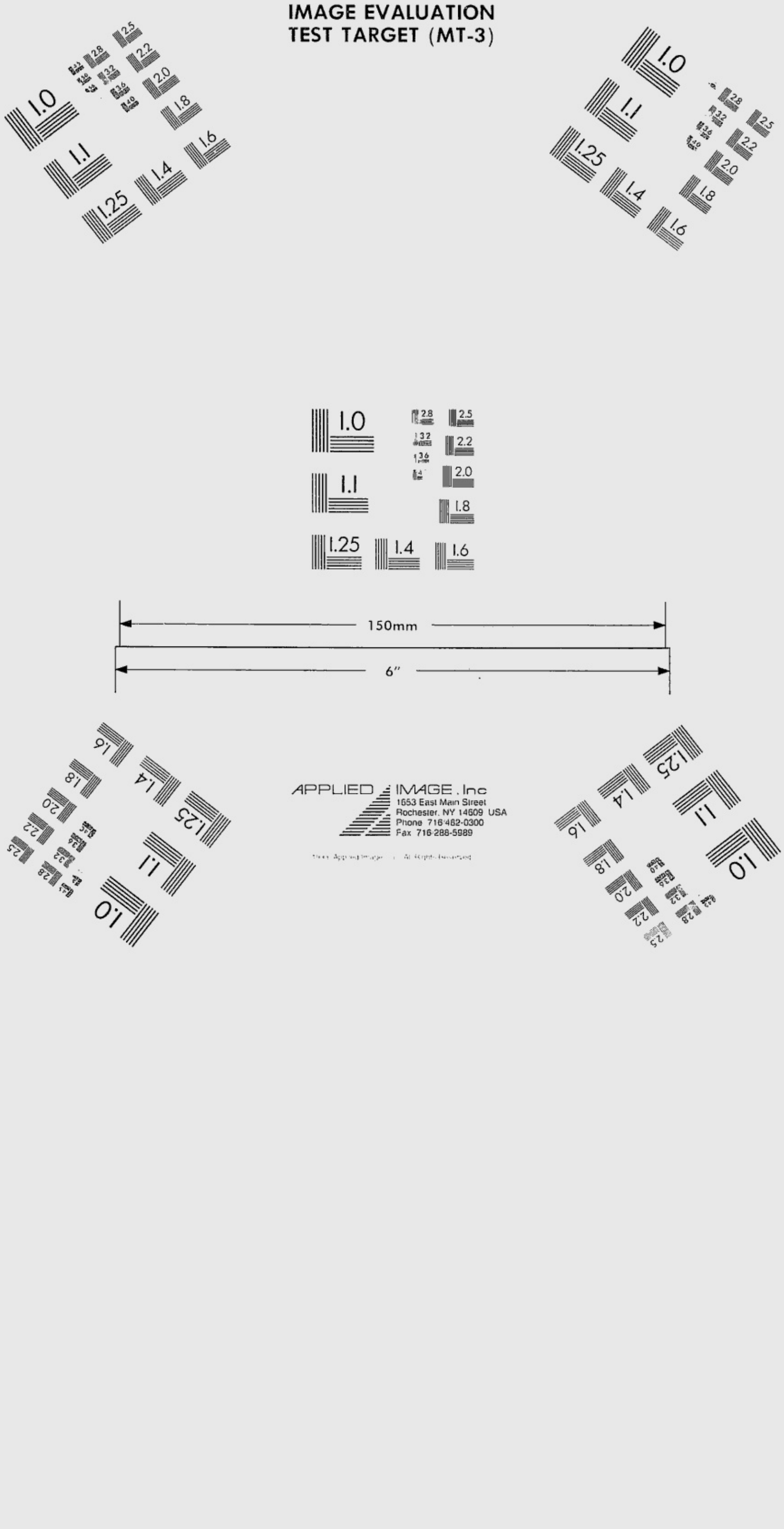
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